



December 17, 2025

The Savannah Historic Preservation Commission  
110 East State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

To the Members of the Savannah Historic Preservation Commission,

The City received your correspondence dated December 5, 2025, requesting City Council add an item to its agenda to “opt in” to a formal review by Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) review of the Forsyth Park Office Building project; however, Council is pursuing an alternative strategy to ensure compliance within the exemption.

We appreciate your completion of the project review within the 45-day period based on O.C.G.A. § 44-10-27 and Sec. 3.18.3 of the Zoning Ordinance. We have received the October 22, 2025 HPC meeting minutes and your letter as the official comments. While a staff report was permitted, and would have been beneficial, it was not provided.

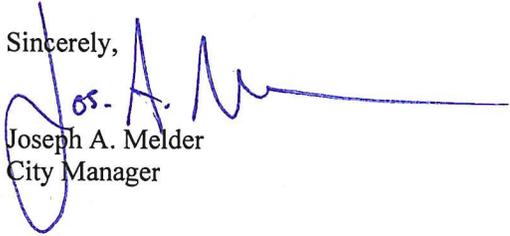
Notwithstanding the exemption and decision to not “opt in,” an internal City committee has been established, to include relevant City departments and a contracted urban planning and design consultant, to review standards and compatibility, impose conditions, as necessary or applicable, and issue such determinations related to Phase I – Height and Mass and Phase II – Design, similar to certificates of appropriateness. Once the certifications are issued, we will forward them to you.

We have finalized a contract with Brockington and Associates to conduct a comprehensive Phase I Archaeology Assessment that builds on their October 2025 survey. The work will adhere to all archaeological ordinance standards, and the Lamar Institute will advise on the process and review the draft report. The final Phase I report will recommend either Phase II testing or no further action, for the City’s consideration.

I appreciate the invitation to today’s December 17 HPC meeting; unfortunately, I am unable to attend.

The City remains committed to a rigorous and transparent review process that meets the expectations of our residents and City Council. We appreciate your response to our request for feedback and will use that to inform our process, which upholds established development and preservation standards.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph A. Melder  
City Manager