

Maria and Lee McCallister
69 First Street
Albany NY 12201
215-470-1732
llmccalli@gmail.com

July 14, 2021

Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive
Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State St., Room 1200
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Executive McCoy:

I am writing to confirm that I (L. Lee McCallister), my wife (Maria McCallister), and her daughter (Anna Huettel) agree to purchase 65 First Street located in the City of Albany, tax map number 65.82-1-62, for \$64,618.26 cash without any condition or contingency. We have sufficient cash on hand to both purchase the property and to complete needed extensive historically appropriate restoration.

We purchased our home at 69 First Street as a foreclosure in need of full rehab in 2016. We have since worked to benefit the community by rehabilitating our home and beautifying other properties on the street. We care for the neighborhood and have a strong desire to preserve the historic fabric of the block.

Our purchase of 65 First Street will result in a community benefit to the neighborhood and its residents. Our home and this house form part of a historic ensemble of complementary 1870's houses with distinctive Victorian (New Orleans style) porches. We plan to restore this home to its former grandeur by completing a historically appropriate renovation of the façade and Victorian porch, planting perennial gardens in the front, side, and back yard, replacing the roof, and renovating the interior. As a result of our efforts to improve the street, several neighbors have expressed their willingness to endorse our purchase of this house.

Our presence on the block has already resulted in demonstrable community benefit. We have endeavored to improve our neighborhood over the last five years through landscaping and installing flower gardens on eight neighboring properties. Examples of our impact on the neighborhood include the following:

- We bought the 56 First Street lot from the Land Bank in 2018 and installed a garden including several hundred peonies.
- We have maintained an annual flower garden at 56 ½ First Street since the house was demolished last year.
- We replaced overgrown weeds at the backyard of the vacant house abutting Arbor Hill Basketball Courts/North Swan Park with a garden of roses and ornamental perennials, shrubs, and trees so that children in the park could enjoy a flower garden backdrop.
- We have planted well over 1,000 tulips and daffodils along the block.

Neighbors, passing pedestrians, and children in the park often comment on the gardens and share their appreciation.

Please let us know what we can do to purchase this property from Albany County. We are happy to provide more information upon request.

Regards,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left, and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive and fluid.

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