

DATE: 4 OCTOBER 2004

TO: RESIDENTS OF THE 2500 BLOCK OF MEREDITH STREET

RE: CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT THE PERELMAN BUILDING
(FORMERLY RELIANCE INSURANCE)

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

As many of you may have noticed, construction has begun on the Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building, located on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue & Fairmount Street, and future home of some of the Philadelphia Art Museum's special collections. Some of the primary changes we've seen over the past month and expect to see in upcoming months include:

1. The gate at 25th & Olive Streets has been reopened and will remain in use by the Museum indefinitely. It will be used for access to the staff parking lot during construction and service traffic once the project has been completed. As far as we know, parking is still allowed along the north side of the 2500 block of Olive Street. At some point in the future, it is likely these spaces will become restricted parking only.
2. A *temporary* electrical transformer has been installed at the corner of 26th & Meredith Street. The electrical equipment and fencing will remain in place until the end of construction, at which point it will be removed and replaced with some combination of parking and landscaping. We expect the debris in and around the fence enclosure to be picked up before work is complete at this location; neighbors on the east end of the block should let us know if it is not.
3. As most of you are aware from our earlier communications, this is going to be a long & messy project. Relatively minor work (demolition at the interior of the Fairmount wing) will continue through the fall. At the end of that period, the real work will begin: exterior demolition (at the stair tower where the two wings come together) and excavation for the addition behind the Fairmount wing. Construction will be complete and the building will be open to the public in Spring 2006.

While we should all expect quite a bit of nuisance over the next two years, our impression is that the Museum is committed to minimizing the impact of construction on our neighborhood. If you have any questions or complaints about the construction process, please don't hesitate to communicate them to us. Melissa Mather and I are currently the primary contacts between our block and the Museum and the FCA; at some point we may try to set up some forum for neighbor questions (perhaps on Doug's website) or have someone at the Museum establish a line of more direct communication to the entire block.

In two years, we will have a beautiful building and fantastic cultural resource in our backyards. It's going to be a long and difficult road to get there, but in the end should be well worth it.

Cheers,

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