

**International Tennis
Hall of Fame & Museum**
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August 21, 2013

Historic District Commission
City of Newport
City Hall
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

To the Members of the Historic District Commission:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed Welcome Center at The Breakers. The Preservation Society of Newport County's mission to protect and preserve historic house museums and landscapes contributes significantly to keeping Newport as one of the top historic tourist destinations in the country. Last year, 400,000 visitors traveled to Newport from around the world to visit the incredible property, but the canvas tent and restroom trailer that currently stand at the entrance are a poor introduction to this National Historic Landmark.

The Preservation Society of Newport County is fully committed to ensuring that the Welcome Center be done with the utmost care and be constructed in a way that complements the historic property and adheres to the highest level of historic preservation guidelines. In addition, the Welcome Center would utilize energy-efficient and environmentally friendly concepts and materials. With the leadership of the Preservation Society of Newport County behind this project, the entire community can rest assured that the design, construction, and functionality of the property will all be done at the highest level.

The proposed Welcome Center at The Breakers would educate visitors about the Newport Mansions and would call attention to other area attractions, allowing guests to plan their visit and make the most of their time in Newport. Something as simple as a restroom and a place to sit for light refreshments can provide much needed relaxation and ease for visitors. A more permanent structure would allow The Breakers to become a multi-season destination where the elements would not interfere with a visit. These amenities, combined with the improved customer service the Welcome Center will provide, will result in a positive experience and ideally lead to return trips, referrals, and ultimately, increased economic impact for the city.

At the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum we strive to provide an environment that is aesthetically pleasing, comfortable, and accessible

and represents the highest level of hospitality for our visitors. The content of our museum is priceless but the positive experience our guests have in the museum and on the grounds is what truly allows for the doors to stay open for future generations to enjoy. A Welcome Center on The Breakers property would allow for the Preservation Society of Newport County to do the same, and for the good of our entire community, I fully support this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Stenning
CEO