Draft remarks of Jonathan Robinson

As emailed to La Grange Today on Nov. 23, 2026, for delivery during public comment at the Nov. 23, 2026 meeting of the La Grange Village Board. Reproduced verbatim from Robinson's email, including his spelling and punctuation. The remarks as delivered may differ.

What was done this last week with demolition of that building was wrong. The judge unequivocally said both the village and the developer were in violation of her court order. The attorneys officially on the record apologized to the court. The village and developer should also be apologizing to the public. That was no small trivial mistake.

On Friday, the village attorney decided to push a narrative that the site access was not safe and lives were at stake. And the developer produced a signed and sealed structural engineer's report saying the best course of action was to continue to demo.

As a licensed professional who understands making decisions that involve life safety, we were sympathetic to the judge's request when she made it, to attempt to work something out between the parties so that the court did not have to make any life safety decisions.

We were given two choices: keep fighting two parties hell bent on tearing down this building or negotiate something.

We chose to negotiate.

Let me make this clear - my wife - Kiersten Robinson - turned the conversation to salvaging the building facade because the root of the site access safety concerns was an influencer who jumped over a 30" tall concrete barricade on the public sidewalk to create their video to inform the public about both the historic facade being originally created by a renown architect and the terracotta facade coming from a known historic manufacturer.

In return for dissolving our TRO from demoing the building, we got the developer to commit to salvaging all of the terracotta facade on the north side of the building, including delivery to the architectural salvager of our choosing. Additionally we received a promise for an independent structural engineer to review the demolition safety concerns we have raised about the area of the building by our property, and lastly we received roughly the cost of our attorney's time for this latest round of litigation where we were attempting to enforce our TRO with an emergency motion and such, as a $10,000 payment.

Unlike this village, we heard the public's voice and we hope we at least answered a little of that call the best way we could in moving the historic facade into a path where pieces can live a second life. We are now beginning to work on possible ways to make that happen, if anyone

has any suggestion about how and where we can reuse or display any of the pieces, please let us know. The architectural salvager's ideal goal would be that some pieces stay in the community it came out of, since it is a piece of this town’s history.