May 26, 2010

Salt Lake City Planning Commission
451 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

On behalf of Utah Heritage Foundation, I strongly encourage the Salt Lake City Planning Commission to forward a favorable recommendation to the City Council that the Westmoreland Place neighborhood be established as a Historic Preservation Overlay District.

As noted in the staff report and its attached research, Westmoreland Place is a neighborhood of outstanding historic and architectural significance. This significance is further enhanced by its high percentage of intact architectural integrity, two of the most important criteria for listing as an Overlay District.

The acknowledgement of Westmoreland Place by the Historic Landmarks Commission as a priority neighborhood for new district designation in March 2010 is a testament to its significance, integrity, and readiness to take this step forward. We believe that Historic Preservation Overlay District status will only continue to enhance this unique enclave’s integrity and significance for the future.

As noted in the draft citywide preservation plan, protecting exemplary groupings and significant concentrations of historic properties as local historic districts is a primary strategy. Westmoreland Place fits that definition. Though the plan is still in draft form, taking a step to implement one of the goals of the plan is the right step for this commission tonight.

Thank you for your consideration of making a favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kirk Huffaker
Executive Director