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## Wiedemann organizes fight to block brewery... text size A A A



**Updated: Tuesday, October 7 2014, 05:57 PM EDT**

COVINGTON, Ky. (Joe Webb) -- The plan to tear down an historic Covington brewery met resistance from the guys who resurrected a historic Newport brewery.

Many people have seen the 1880's building along I-75 in Covington. It was where the Jillian's night spot used to be located. The owners of the Bavarian Brewing Property applied for a permit to demolish it. Columbia-Sussex applied for the demolition permit in September 2014 and there has been an undercurrent of opposition.

The opposition was taken up a notch Sunday and the push to keep the Bavarian Brewery Building intact was organized by the family who brought Wiedemann Beer back to Newport. Columbia-Sussex paid more than \$4 million for the four acre site in 2008; presumably in hopes Kentucky would pass casino legislation.

Casino legislation didn't happen. The old Bavarian Brewery and Jillian's has sat empty for eight years. Now, they applied to tear it down.

Beth Johnson from the Community Development Department said, "While it is on the National Register of Historic Places, the national register doesn't put any protections from demolition on this building."

A Covington development plan does. But the city's urban design review board could override that.

Johnson continued, "If the urban design review board were to approve it, then they could. The wrecking ball could go the third week in November."

The wrecking ball has leveled dozens of old breweries over the years. When Newport's Wiedemann Brewery shut down in 1983, it was flattened and is now home to a home store and the Campbell County jail. Doug Newberry doesn't want to see that happen in Covington.

Newberry of George Wiedemann Brewing Company said, "I've got this association with Wiedemann beer. There's this brewery renaissance that's going on and it seems stupid to tear down an historic building like this."

Newberry's family has brought Wiedemann back. Sunday night he launched a petition drive on change.org to stop the

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Bavarian demolition. He also launched a website, savethebavarian.com, that was loaded with nostalgic photos of the old place. He hoped to put pressure on Columbia-Sussex and Covington's urban design review board.


"Covington has their bicentennial next year. Here we go tearing down an historical building in Covington. It just seems like the wrong time to even consider this," Newberry said.

Columbia-Sussex owns the property and in large measure can do with it what it wants. No one knows what its post-demolition plans would be. Tuesday morning, Oct. 7, Local 12 called the person who filed the demolition permit; he hung up the phone.

Newberry had about 300 signatures on his petition Tuesday afternoon. He said people signed from all over the country and around the world.

Follow Joe Webb on Twitter @joewebbwkrc and LIKE him on Facebook

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