

Nancy Gagnon
23 Melrose Avenue North
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 6X3

December 8, 2015

Mr. A. Waterfield
Senior Planner, Community Planning
City of Hamilton

Dear Mr. A. Waterfield:

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and the residents of Melrose Avenue North, specifically between Cannon Street and King Street East.

After reading the Preliminary Circulation for a City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment for Land Located at 1055 and 1099 King Street East, 876 Cannon Street East and 60 Balsam Avenue North (no Mention of Melrose Avenue North Specifically); Hamilton, (Ward 3), we have discussed many concerns that we would like considered prior to making this decision.

First, this is the first reference we have received showing the actual building plans for the site directly across from our street. Our initial plans received showed the land to be used for the Municipal Pool, a Recreation Centre and a Soccer Field. It was only when we attended a meeting for the Pan Am games that we were first advised that there may still be a High School re-erected on the property.

While we can not necessarily change the decision of erecting a High School to the property, we have many concerns regarding the location and layout. The current plan has the High School being erected on Melrose Avenue North. This puts a building directly in front of the houses that have been situated on this street for close to 100 years. Many of the residents on this street have lived here for a number of years, some of us 30 years plus.

We can tell you that the property has been open space for all of these years, used as park land for the elementary school (Prince of Whales) for outdoor activities throughout the day; and then on weekends and evenings as a baseball field. It is currently the only open space in our community for the children to ride bikes, play hockey (the arena has built a free outdoor rink for many years) and dog walking. I cannot tell you how sad it will be to no longer see it used as the area of activity for pre-Tiger Cat activity and tailgating.

The residents of the street have a personal reason as well, that being the view. We have always been fortunate to have the open space across from our property – probably the reason many of us purchased houses here. Putting the high school on King Street East and Melrose Avenue North would close off our street. It would make it an "alley – like" street and change it's complexion forever. There has always been an issue with cars speeding from Cannon Street to King Street East to make the stoplight there, and closing off the street will just make it worse.

Finally, my personal reason, on top of the many listed above, is that I suffer from extreme claustrophobia; so much so that I take medication for it. Seriously, the thought of looking outside my house and now seeing a huge building directly in my view gives me concern. I understand that this part is not your problem, it is just an "aside" to my personal issue with the land's proposed use.

We are aware that we cannot change the site's use, we are asking you review the layout, possibly moving the high school to connect to the pool and recreation centre on the East side, and then running down King Street. This would leave an opening on both Cannon Street and Melrose Avenue North.

If necessary, I can provide list letter, signed by all the residents of Melrose Avenue North between King Street and Cannon Street.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Nancy Gagnon