

**From:** Karl Andrus

**Sent:** January-17-17 8:20 AM

**To:** Bedioui, Ida

**Subject:** Re: Delegations for January 17 Planning Committee Meeting

Copy of my Statement today..

Committee Members, guests, I am here today on behalf of the Stinson Community Association in my role as co-chair to let you know that the SCA voted at our most recent meeting unanimously to oppose any demolition of 18-28 King Street East, the buildings on the south side of King Street just east of James, fronting the Gore Park promenade. To the members of the SCA these buildings represent an important historical piece of the fabric of the downtown core. An image of the core that cannot be replaced by modern structures. Over the last 40 years a great many historical buildings downtown have been sacrificed in the name of urban renewal in the core; The Eaton's Department Store, The Bank of Hamilton, and The Birks Building where all removed in my lifetime. In place of these grand buildings we are left with ugly, cement blocks, which contribute little to the character or invitingness of the core, more so that tend to detract from its vibrancy. Property in Hamilton is one of the hottest in the country, the downtown core, more so. We have an opportunity now to decide how the growing core will look a generation from now. Heritage building are not a financial burden or urban blight but rather an opportunity to city build. When beautifully restored, these buildings are vital to the kind of highly successful, vibrant urban spaces we as a community want from our downtown. To that end the citizens of the Stinson Community Association oppose any demolition of the buildings in question and implore you to look as these buildings as an essential part of the continued renaissance in the downtown core.

Thank you for your time