

Sent: January-25-17 11:32 AM
To: Bedioui, Ida
Subject: Gore Park heritage demolition

Dear Councillor,

Hearing this news absolutely **horrified** me.

Please do not allow the demolition of heritage properties on Gore Park, specifically 18-28 King Street East (Heritage Permit Applications HP2016-027 and HP2016-028). When making your decision on January 17 at Planning Committee and on January 25 at the meeting of Council, I hope you had considered the following:

- **History:** The properties are of indisputable historic value as noted in all the studies, reports and the City's Notice Of Intention to Designate under the Heritage Act. They are all exceptional examples of pre-confederation commercial buildings dating between 1840 and 1875;
- **Structure:** The properties are certified as structurally sound according to *the* official Tacoma engineering report on file which was commissioned by the City. The developer's continued assertion that the buildings are "garbage" has been shown to be self interested and untrue;
- **Density:** The properties are not being demolished to make room for more dense development. In fact the replacement properties will be smaller than the existing structures and the empty space on the developer's land parcel will *increase*;
- **Neglect:** The developer has evicted its tenants and has *knowingly* allowed the buildings to deteriorate and is now seeking to use their current state of disrepair as a rationale for their demolition. The City should be offended by such lack of stewardship in the heart of Hamilton;
- **Something vs. Nothing:** Everyone wants to see life in these buildings, but the only reason they appear "dead" is because the developer is trying to kill them. Other developers have expressed interest in restoring and beautifying them. New, high density and modern buildings can be built on the developer's surplus of empty lots which abound downtown and on this land parcel in particular. We do not need to destroy in order to create;
- **Money:** Young people, entrepreneurs, small businesses and cultural institutions are flocking to heritage buildings which have been adaptively re-used and beautified by responsible owners. Today, such buildings are not a financial burden, rather they are wonderful opportunities. When adaptively re-used and beautifully restored, these buildings are *vital* to highly successful, vibrant urban places where small business, commerce and culture flourish.

Let's learn from our past and remember the uninspiring projects that missed the mark (such as Jackson Square) compared with recent projects where adaptive reuse of heritage buildings has sparked revitalization of entire districts (such as the Lister Block and King William St.)

Please work with the developer and your colleagues on Council to craft a better solution – a compromise which does not include demolition of everyone's beloved, historic Gore, the heart of Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Raychyl Whyte