

To: Hamilton City Council

June 24, 2017

Re: Proposed Closure and Sale of Dundas Public Laneway Between Sydenham Road, Cross Street, Alma Street and Victoria Street in Dundas.

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council,

I am writing in opposition to the closure of the Public Laneway identified above.

I am asking you to vote "NO" on this proposed closure and to consider the following factors:

1)

This laneway is part of an historic network of public lanes and pathways that are regularly used by local habitants. Its closure further reduces safe, walkable space in Dundas.

2)

Laneways are being re-zoned in many cities. Toronto is examining "**Laneway Housing**". Hamilton is presently considering its laneway policies. The intention to sell this land to a private individual who has significant business interests with the city raises questions about this being a future development opportunity - at the expense of the community.

3)

Increasingly, geographical features are being recognized for their inter-relatedness with cultures and societies through the world. Recently, New Zealand granted a river the same legal rights as a human being*. Hamilton, which prides itself on its conservation areas, must also work to conserve walkable areas that contribute to the quality of life in our communities.

I urge you to carefully consider these factors,

Your truly,

Patrick Rowan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*The Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/16/new-zealand-river-granted-same-legal-rights-as-human-being>