

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Closure of public laneway between Alma and Victoria Streets in Dundas

From: Rich Gelder

Sent: June-26-17 7:47 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; VanderBeek, Arlene

Cc: Office of the Mayor

Subject: Closure of public laneway between Alma and Victoria Streets in Dundas

Dear Clerk of Hamilton City Council:

I am writing to express my fervent opposition to a resolution coming before Hamilton City Council on Wednesday, June 28th.

To wit, the Public Works Committee recently approved the sale of land abutting a property on Sydenham Road which would result in the closure of a public laneway between Alma and Victoria Streets to the immediate east of the said Sydenham.

I believe allowing this sale will be detrimental to the character of the neighbourhood and to the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and most importantly children travelling to and from the nearby St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School. Further, I believe approving this motion runs contrary to emerging trends in organic urban design, where other alleyways in the city (and others) are being reclaimed as public space for artists, gardens and generally space that is safe for walking, cycling, pushing strollers, etc.

What further exacerbates this particular application is the underhanded conduct of the property owner in question who not only paved and fenced in the alleyway before any such purchase was completed, but did so without application to the City, as required as a function of it's location in the Cross-Melville Heritage District. This is not the kind of conduct that ought be rewarded with the approval of this sale. More globally, it is simply not good city-building.

As such, I would urge Council to reject this application for purchase, in spite of its approval by the Public Works Committee. I would respectfully ask that this letter be included in the Correspondence section of the agenda for the meeting of Hamilton City Council on Wednesday, June 26th, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Gelder □

“An advanced city is not a place where the poor move about in cars, rather it’s where even the rich use public transportation”

— **Enrique Penalosa**