

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Laneway in Cross-Melville Heritage District

From: Lynda Morgan Murdoch

Sent: June-27-17 8:14 AM

To: Office of the Mayor; Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi; VanderBeek, Arlene

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Dear Hamilton City Councillors

As a resident of Dundas, I am appealing to each of you in hopes that you will vote against the recommendation made by the Public Works Committee on June 19, 2017.

For the sake of brevity, I won't go into the numerous aspects of that meeting's process that were disturbing. What bothered me most were the following:

- the apparent willingness of city staff to retroactively approve an action that flagrantly disregarded the rules and processes that govern them, especially since this action (the closure of an historic public thoroughfare) clearly privileges the interests of one individual over those of the community,
- the lack of any evidence in support of the committee chair's invocation of safety as the rationale for her recommendation for approval of the sale of the laneway;
- the committee's unquestioning and unanimous endorsement of that recommendation, characterized in Andrew Dreschel's June 22 article in the Hamilton Spectator as "their usual practice of acquiescing to the wishes of ward councillors on issues directly related to their turf".

If you feel you cannot overturn the committee's decision, please initiate or support a motion that the recommendation made by the committee be tabled to allow time for the Municipal Heritage Committee to assess the impact of this decision affecting the streetscape and character of the Cross-Melville Heritage District. I would also suggest gathering evidence to inform a decision about the legitimacy of the concern raised about safety and exploring alternative ways to resolve any issues identified.

If Hamilton truly is the Ambitious City, please let us be ambitious in support of democracy, community and heritage. I truly appreciate your service to the community and trust that you will give this matter your thoughtful consideration.

Lynda Morgan Murdoch