

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Dundas Alley Closure

**From:** Brenda Duke  
**Sent:** June-26-17 10:42 PM  
**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Cc:** Brenda Duke  
**Subject:** Re: Dundas Alley Closure

Good day Mr. Mayor and Members of Council.

I am writing in opposition to the sale of the Dundas Alley in question.

Some of you may know me as part of the Gibson and Landsdale Area (GALA) Planning Team, some may associate me with the Beautiful Alleys initiative and some have called me a community leader. But first and foremost, I am a resident. One that believes in my community and my city to do what is best.

I believe in the strength of community and the good that can result from grass roots community engagement. I believe that is vital to building a city that people believe in and support and work to make better.

Building community can take hours of work and years to accomplish. It can be lost with one wrong word or action. We cannot discount the hours of volunteer hours from the hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly toward the goal of making Hamilton a city they are invested in and proud of. And it would be disrespectful not to acknowledge the thousands of dollars invested by the city to support the actions and initiatives of the community.

To discount the community that stands behind keeping the Dundas alley public tells them that what they do or think or feel doesn't matter. So why bother trying?

Are there arguments against? Of course. Councilor Vanderbeek spoke of safety issues around children from the school and crossing guards. Are there solutions to that? Of course. Relocate the crossing guards, establish a pedestrian walk over. There is always a solution to a problem if you dig a bit further and think of options.

A decision to close the alley and allow the sale to go through is targeted at pleasing a few people. A decision to keep it open and public engages a community and hundreds of people who have invested their time, energy and heart in a place, a project and a life style they want to embrace. What builds a better city?

We all use the word community to describe success. You, when you attend events and support initiatives and worthwhile causes talk continuously of community actions and involvement. Now is the time to lend credibility to those words.

Please consider keeping rejecting the decision of the Committee in favour of the community who values the space with a larger vision for the future.

Thank you  
Brenda Duke