

Good morning Planning Committee members.

My name is Janice Brown. I am appearing on behalf of the Durand Neighbourhood Association.

Thank you very much for allowing us to appear on such short notice, and thank you Councillor Farr for facilitating our delegation.

I am here today to present to you an exhaustive and detailed planning study prepared by Civic Plan on the character of the Durand Neighbourhood. This has been 2 years in the making. This process involved DNA Board Members and over 40 Duranders who volunteered their time to assist Civic Plan.

The Durand Neighbourhood Character Study's purpose was to understand the neighbourhood context and make recommendations for future policy to help maintain neighbourhood character through periods of change.

This is an important study that was financed by our association along with the gracious support of the city through the Ward 2 Area Rating Fund. It was at the suggestion of planning staff that we research data based on the experience from the City of Ottawa.

The key recommendations in the report are on pages 78- 79. Specific mention is to recommendation number 2, which refers to the implementation of a Zoning Overlay Pilot Project using a Streetscape Character Analysis that could assist in maintaining Durand's neighbourhood character. We believe it is important for the city and for Durand to actually explore how we can protect the character of an established downtown neighbourhood. This is not a new approach. Ottawa has a similar system which has been approved by the OMB. We believe that Hamilton will benefit by exploring how the experience in Ottawa can apply to Hamilton.

We therefore ask that you receive this report and refer it to staff for further study and action.