

UNIVERSITY PLAZA AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (UPARA)

February 19, 2019

UPARA was formed to promote the interests of residents in the area surrounding University Plaza in Dundas and to advocate for the neighbourhood's livability and general welfare.

Our delegation is here to express our deep concerns about losing our full-service grocery store — the Metro that has been the Plaza's anchor store — and to ask the City to help us work with the Plaza owner and potential private grocery stores to replace this vital service.

In our presentation we will:

- describe the neighbourhood
- document, based on the City's own criteria, the extent to which the area is already under-served in terms of access to groceries
- draw the clear conclusion that we need a full-service grocery, and
- ask for the City's creative collaboration in bringing one back to the Plaza.

We call the Committee's attention to how having a grocery store at the Plaza aligns with the goals and objectives outlined in the *Urban Hamilton Official Plan* and ask it to join with us to work with the Plaza owner and private businesses to find a way to replace the Metro store that's leaving.

We note the important role of government in steering private businesses — through rules, regulations, incentives, and disincentives — to set up in ways that benefit not only themselves but also the broader public. Hamilton has articulated a vision through its Official Plan that involves walkable, liveable communities. Now the residents of Dundas/West Hamilton need our local government's direct and concrete help to work with the private sector to realize that vision.