

From: Sarah
Sent: December 22, 2020 10:48 PM
To: Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Van Rooi, James <James.VanRooi@hamilton.ca>
Subject: 15 Church street

Hello Councillor Ferguson,

I am writing to object to the development planned at 15 Church Street in Ancaster. It's coincidental actually - I had contacted you back in 2019 expressing the challenges that I was having, as a pedestrian, crossing in front of this property with two young children in tow in a stroller. I would love to hear the suggestions for how a family such as mine is meant to navigate around the cars parked at this proposed development as they overhang onto the sidewalk. Does the City plan to impose limits on the types of cars these (future) residents can own (so that they can actually fit into their driveway)? Likely not.

After viewing the most recent Planning Committee's meeting from December 8th, I am even more appalled. The proposed project will ultimately sacrifice the already limited walkability of this area that I utilize **everyday** - picking up my young son (2 years old) at Little Gems in town, with my 4 year old Kindergartener in tow. I would implore you to imagine the safety concerns I already have when I enter this stretch of road, leading up to the Wilson & Church St. intersection.

On more than one occasion I have expressed to my husband that I should be wearing a body cam so that I can record the near-misses I have experienced in almost being hit by a car (with a double stroller in hand). It's great that Mr. Van Rooi came out on a Sunday morning to snap some photographs of the seemingly quiet streets, however isn't a more reliable source of information the people who walk (and drive) these streets every day?

It is evident that the City *already* has not prioritized pedestrian safety in this area (as a mother, how can I now not think of the Strickland family when considering pedestrian safety?) so is it safe to actually trust their approval of this? What is unfortunate however, is moving forward on a proposal such as this will only worsen the situation - in no way can an argument be made that it will improve it, which is actually where everyone's time and effort should be directed.

The fact that the proposed development appears to require 12 variances from zoning and bylaws should be a red flag in and of itself - what is the point of having such standards if they are simply going to be amended rather than upheld? You can appreciate how community members find it completely absurd that such bylaws can just be changed to meet the needs of someone with deep pockets (and the City clearly wanting to profit off of it!)

I have to admit, watching this process unfold has led to my complete loss of faith in municipal affairs, and City staff - of course the developer is going to look out for his best interests, however my understanding is that our local councillor is supposed to be the representative to look out for our community's best interests and our voice. The only

beneficiary of this proposal appears to be the developer - what other justification is there for cramming in 6 units? Obviously to make the most money.

I was encouraged that you at least took the opportunity to defer the council vote to think on this some more. However it would be very refreshing if this additional time wasn't all for none, and for community members' concerns to not just be brushed off simply because City staff have already indicated their approval of this proposal (oh, and because of your fear that the developer will appeal if the proposal is not approved).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wellman