

From: Mary Porter
Sent: February 11, 2021 11:17 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>
Subject:

Dear Councillors:

I'm writing to express my concerns about the Corktown Plaza redevelopment (Planning Committee file # PED 21032). I live nearby and attended both community meetings that Slate Asset Management hosted. At the time, I appreciated the efforts made to consult with the community. Every single person who attended those meetings stressed the need for a grocery store in Corktown and expressed concerns that we would lose amenities. Councillor Farr, who was present at at least one of these meetings, might remember how insistent everyone was on these points. When the plan was presented in 2018, I was pleased to see a retail space large enough for a substantial grocery store.

Corktown is a neighbourhood that will be experiencing substantial change in the years to come with multiple large-scale developments that will significantly increase density and traffic. I welcome my future neighbours and well considered community-consulted developments that meet our housing and amenity needs, particularly if they include affordable housing. I welcome the city's plan to encourage forms of transportation other than cars. If we are to make this a successful densely-populated and walkable neighbourhood, we need a real grocery store. I can't imagine there is not a successful business case for one in this location.

The new scaled back plans have much smaller retail space which does not appear to be suitable for a large grocery store. I'm disappointed that my neighbours and I freely gave our time to a community consultation process that was ultimately ignored by both the developer and city planners. I will approach future efforts with more scepticism. I was disappointed when my email requesting more information about this was ignored by Brandon Donnelly at Slate Asset Management. I'm disappointed by the city process that doesn't give residents enough time for further consultation when a substantial change like this is made. It feels like a bait and switch.

Perhaps there are perfectly reasonable answers. Perhaps a grocery store is still in the cards. I think many of us in the neighbourhood would like some answers and some transparency about why this happened. I would hope that Councillor Farr will see it as a part of his job as our representative to advocate for these concerns and facilitate meaningful community consultation that isn't just for show.

Sincerely,

Mary Porter