

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:06 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Manchia/Spallaci development proposal in Ancaster

Dear Councillors of Hamilton,

A 30-year resident of Ancaster, I submit this letter as someone who grew up in a historic town, Alexandria Virginia whose “olde town section” remains a destination for good dining shops and valuable real estate. This town outside Washington retained its touristic, commercial and real estate value BECAUSE it scrupulously maintained the historic built environment—and controlled the height, setback and streetscape and any new **nearby** construction.

The same is true of Yorkville, Georgetown DC, Charleston, Savannah, etc etc. Developers in these historic centers may have wanted to raze two- storey 18th & 19th century buildings to sell 6 or 8 story condos, but the shared cityscape was deemed more important than private profit.

The city of Hamilton should learn from these examples **disallow the Spallaci/Manchia development**—and require them to **rebuild the two pre-confederation buildings** so crassly destroyed to reinstate the historic streetscape that attracted the other thousands of residents.

What’s especially painful about the developers' wanton demolition of two 19th century buildings, is they aimed at the most historic blocks on the high street. A block away sits the stone town hall; two blocks away stand two 19th century stone churches—one spire is visible from the site. Even the automotive garage across the street restored the heritage structure on its site and repurposed it. A plaque claiming Ancaster’s history can be found 500 meters up the street.

Why did Hamilton not protect this historic streetscape and allow these demolitions?

Building a kilometer west of the proposed site, which is NOT the historic core would not be opposed for intense infilling if below 3 stories.

The developers have said in interviews that they must build high to make a profit. The city of Hamilton, nor the residents of Ancaster do not owe Manchia/Spallaci a certain multiple of their investment. I am shocked that these two men still live in the town where they have encountered so much angry opposition.

Soon after the Manchia/Spoilacci block’s historic were razed, I often heard regular people bemoan the loss of the village's character—not historians, not architecture junkies, but those who chose to live in a suburb with a past, with a traditional rural high street—with a human-scaled streetscape.

Below are pictures of the two buildings razed in order to make way for the proposed condo site. Both would have been eligible for the **City’s Still Standing project** to commemorate the 150th celebration of Canada—with their red signs.

"This Building was standing in 1867"

We need them both back.

Amy Willard-Cross

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