

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Vote to Withdraw Heritage Designation (84 York Boulevard)

From: Raimund Laqua

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 8:15 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Qureshi, Uzma <Uzma.Qureshi@hamilton.ca>; Lowe, Sarah <Sarah.Lowe@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Vote to Withdraw Heritage Designation (84 York Boulevard)

Dear Andrea Horwath,

My name is Raimund Laqua, and I have lived in Hamilton for 60 years. For the past 35 years, I have been a member of Philpott Church, at 84 York Boulevard, where I got married and raised my children. This community has supported me through good and difficult times, just as it has supported many others for over a century.

I am deeply disappointed and saddened to learn of the city's plan to designate our building as a heritage site. This designation poses a significant risk to our community's future and could seriously hurt our community and limit the good work Philpott Church does for Hamilton.

This designation feels particularly unfair given the Heritage Committee has been aware of our intention to sell the building for over a decade.

As you know, we entered into a purchase and sale agreement in 2021 with a developer who plans to build much-needed housing on the site. At the same time, we purchased the former Lincoln Alexander Centre on King Street East, where renovations are well underway. The purchase and sale agreement for our current site is scheduled to close this September.

A heritage designation for our building jeopardizes our relocation agreement. Without the sale, we cannot move forward with our planned relocation project, which is essential for us to continue serving the Hamilton community. This outcome would dismantle our legacy, rather than continue it, which I believe is not the intention of the council members.

I urge you to consider the impact of this heritage designation on our church and to vote to withdraw the notice of intention to designate our building.

Sincerely,

Raimund Laqua, PMP. , P.Eng.