

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:16 PM  
**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 1588 Clarke Rd. and 179 Piccadilly - waiting for direction

Please place my letter on the public agenda. Thank You

Dear Members of Council,

Re: 1588 Clarke Rd and 176 Piccadilly

In recent years I have placed property standard complaints against the property owner of 176 Piccadilly hoping this would trigger them to take better care of their house. Instead, I learned last week that it is the City of London that is making the request to demolishing this historical house.

I am not aware of a single person in the community that wants this house demolished.

Council should be concerned as to why derelict property owners such as Sifton, Farhi and the owners of 176 Piccadilly think it is just fine to ignore the city's property standards and/or orders to repair their properties.

Last week, Councillor Lehman was quoted on CTV newscast as saying that it is the responsibility of property owners to maintain their properties in good standing. Comments such as these are part of problem because the Councillor is messaging that Council has no role or responsibility in ensuring property owners are not deliberating letting historical homes deteriorate.

There are several unique historical, good solid buildings that can be repurposed in the city that are being left empty and wasting away, and likely being used as losses against profits. And the city does nothing.

This includes 100 Stanley St. - a historical home expropriated by the City of London which has been sitting empty for three years when it could have been used as a shelter or another form of temporary housing.

The city is complicit in their actions and their words in the rotting away of our historical buildings. So why then wouldn't investment property owners thumb their noses at the city's property standards when the city itself is letting good historical homes rot away?

Both houses at 176 Piccadilly and 1588 Clarke Rd. have early histories that are becoming increasingly rare and worth preserving. Both can offer affordable housing even within a larger development. The original house at 1588 Clarke Rd. has a field stone foundation which has remained solid for 180 years and the wood house at 176 Piccadilly is over 200 years. Possibly the oldest house left in the city. No modern building is likely to last more than 60 years.

Please take action and send property owners a strong message that these small houses are worth keeping, and the city can begin by enforcing their own by-laws and getting their own house in order.

There is no point in having by-laws that are not enforceable and/or no one takes seriously. And residents would appreciate if this Council defended the intrinsic value of the city - for a change - rather than pushing their own agenda or 'empire building'.

Sincerely,

AnnaMaria Valastro