

From: Judith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 12:22 PM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Cc: Ferreira, David <dferreira@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Planning Application zoning amendment 50 King Street and 399 Ridout Street N

Attention PEC Committee Clerk:

Please circulate this email to PEC members, the mayor and all other City Counsellors before the PEC meeting dealing with the above zoning amendment application.

Steve Lehman, chair

Anna Hopkins

Skylar Franke

Steven Hillier

Shawn Lewis, Deputy Mayor

Josh Morgan, Mayor

Dear Councillor Members of PEC and Mayor Morgan

Think back to why you decided to run for council. My guess is that you wanted to make your city a better place to live. I very much doubt that your goal was to see two mammoth towers built on heritage lands, towers that would forever disrupt the creative use of the lands and properties that embrace and link London's historic beginnings.

Regretfully when the City attempted to buy the heritage property at issue they were outbid by a developer. This property encompasses two historic and unique buildings on land overlooking the Forks of the Thames River and parklands.

I do not take issue with the downtown density plan. Nowhere does it say however that high density towers should be built on land that is rich in London's history and links up with other historic or cultural sites including Eldon House, Museum London, the former Labatt buildings and famous Labatt Ball Park. All are within walking distance of one another. This whole area with its parklands and walking/biking trails is the "Jewel in London's Crown" and should be a focal point for all residents and tourists to gather and visit.

When the City planned to buy this property it was in keeping with the "back to the river" concept previously envisioned. The two massive buildings of 53 and 43 stories now proposed would be devastating to that possibility. Approving these buildings would make a mockery of preserving the history, the heritage, the culture and the living legacy embodied in those interconnected areas at the Forks of the Thames.

Although the City has already approved a 28 story building it has no obligation to ensure that York Developments makes a profit on what they paid for the land by agreeing to their new proposal. If York's application is not approved they may be willing to sell all or part of the property to the City.

I urge you to view this application through a much bigger lens and not just as additional tax revenue. Envision your legacy. Hopefully that will include a creatively developed "jewell in the crown" for the use and enjoyment of all residents and visitors while honouring London's origins and history.

Please. Have the vision, the courage and the will to say NO to this application.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Potter

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London Ontario

September 27, 2023

Sent from my iPad