

September 28, 2023

Attn: Planning & Environment Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON N6A 4L9

Re: Dissolution of the UDPRP (PEC Item 4.1)

Dear Members of the City of London's Planning & Environment Committee,

On behalf of Drewlo Holdings we would like to express our support for the motion put forward by Councillor Lewis and Councillor Lehman regarding the dissolution of the Urban Design Peer Review Panel (UDPRP).

As indicated in their letter, our community is in the midst of a housing crisis. A lack of supply and the inability to bring units to market in a timely fashion has been a significant contributor to the current situation.

All residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments 5 storeys or taller are required to be reviewed by the UDPRP. This requirement must be satisfied before an application can be submitted and at minimum represents a 3-month delay – in reality this delay is much longer. Additionally, submission requirements for the Panel and multiple design changes can present unnecessary costs which are ultimately passed along to the end user/tenant/homeowner.

Circumstances have drastically changed since 2008, when the UDPRP was initially formed. The London Plan now contains extensive policies to guide the shape, character and form of development within the City of London, and there is a proficient team of Urban Design staff employed who are more than capable to review applications and ensure those policies are implemented.


The delay in process and cost implications significantly outweigh any benefit UDPRP feedback may provide. We are supportive of the immediate dissolution of the Urban Design Peer Review Panel.


Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Carrie O'Brien, Land Planner
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