

Shawn Lewis

I'm very aware of the challenges and pressures that council members face in balancing the many decisions they are required to make. I was on City Council for 12 years, which included Board of Control, Chair of the Planning committee and a Ward Councilor. I'm also aware that some developers provide an abundance of political donations in various individuals' names to Councilors, when they are looking for political support from the Planning Committee and City Council.

All politicians need to be aware of the damage to the cultural heart of London this proposed development will cause. The potential damage to our historical Castle could be devastating during construction and could likely suffer neglect over time. We would lose the green space and much needed public parking at the Forks of the Thames. There will be an influx of people and vehicles on the already overcrowded two-lane roads on Thames and King Streets. There does not appear to be sufficient space to widen these streets to four lanes to accommodate the increased traffic, without removing even more of the Ivey Park and Peace Gardens area parkland.

I support either no development or, at a maximum, the building of the single 22 story tower that is already approved for the present site.

Sincerely,
Dawn Erskine

[REDACTED]

London ON

N5V 2C3

[REDACTED]

Dawn Erskine [REDACTED]

[To:slewis@london.ca](mailto:slewis@london.ca)[Cc:slehman@london.ca](mailto:slehman@london.ca)[,ahopkins@london.ca](mailto:ahopkins@london.ca)[,sfranke@london.ca](mailto:sfranke@london.ca)[,Mayor City of London,hmcalister@london.ca](mailto:Mayor City of London,hmcalister@london.ca) and 9 more...

Thu, Sep 28 at 1:14 a.m.

Shawn,

Respectfully, your statement about current zoning allowing up to 35 stories in the newest London Plan is true, but does not negate the fact that the current allowance from earlier Councils is what was purchased and exists now until changed. The statement that "our consideration is for the additional height and density request above 35 stories" not only flies in the face of the new London Plan limit, but also seems deaf to the very real concerns of people about the permanent damage to our cultural and historical lands. York Development and the Soufan family are good developers, as indicated by their development just down the street on King St and others sites. There are other downtown sites which could accommodate hi-rise towers within the recently established 35 story limit to assist with growth in the downtown area.

Shawn, not to put too fine a point on your \$1200. comment, but that was the amount given to you and two other members of the current PEC Committee in the 2018 election campaign. This represented all of the Soufan donations to Council in 2018 that have been found which totals \$3600. According to election filings for the 2022 election, you received \$3600. yourself and the same other two members received \$2400. each, totaling \$8400. from the same family. This is almost 44% of the total donations found of \$19,200. given by them to all successful Councilors. No one is suggesting that was a determinative influence on you or the other members, but the optics of all three of you being on the Planning and Environment committee could be troubling.

Your comment about "fearmongering" is not respectful or helpful to those who are concerned about the current Thames St. traffic flow woes in this narrow area, which upon viewing, leaves no room for expansion without carving into parkland. You also seem to ignore that the recent Amended Proposal covers a large portion of land that is City owned, including the previous police station land at 14 King St. The very last-minute addition of a clause to rezone this portion of City property to assist the developer, just days before going to PEC, is not very transparent and appears untoward in the circumstances.

I am indeed familiar with both surface and parking structures and their differences, but usually people are required to use only their own land. The City owned parcel should be used to augment the other nearby City parking at the Forks, rather than be absorbed into the new proposed development.

As a past 12 year veteran of this Council I do try to stay abreast of major issues and am concerned with the future of our City.

Sincerely,
Dawn Erskine
[REDACTED]

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