

**From:** Patrick Linardic

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023 11:52 AM

**To:** PEC <[pec@london.ca](mailto:pec@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] King and Ridout Towers

Hello,

As I am seeing later today the committee will discuss the new tower development proposed for King and Ridout St, I wanted to chime in with some thoughts as someone who has lived downtown for many years.

London needs this development. While living downtown, I have realized that the majority of the issues come from lack of density in the core. As a resident who would most likely be impacted by construction, I absolutely believe that this tower is a good idea for a couple reasons. First off, the area they are planning to build the tower already has so many commercial amenities nearby it would be easy to transform that area into a walkable community. Also, due to the proximity to the Thames River, cycling and walking would be many residents' preferred methods of transportation. I have seen lots of people complaining about potential traffic increasing, but that would be less of an issue considering the area would be built as a walkable community. Not only this, but this proposal is right next to the new bus routes being improved on King Street, so it doesn't make sense to not densify this location. If we are going to have good transit infrastructure, we need to follow it up with good land use.

I also wanted to touch on something interesting I saw the ward 13 councilor mention. There are lots of talks about these towers overcrowding the heritage buildings. I think this is a spot where we need to take a good hard look at ourselves and determine if maintaining heritage buildings is as important as housing people, and contributing to the solution of the housing crisis. I understand there is a lot of historical value to the courthouse, but at the end of the day, housing is objectively more important. Also, this development would not even remove the courthouse, the anxieties many of these residents are projecting seem self-inflicted and not based in reality. I have also seen critiques saying that "this is not the right area for this kind of density". I think that this is a horrible argument. Every time there is a new residential proposal downtown, this comes up. At the end of the day, not everyone is going to be happy with new buildings going up in certain spots, but I think the government needs to recognize that the housing crisis is so bad, we can't keep listening to those who have owned properties for 20 years in the core and reject the ideas of densification, we will end up just as ugly and dysfunctional as a city like Brampton. Reject NIMBY's, accept healthy, dense urban planning

I really love this city, and I don't want to leave, but as a young person who wants to start a business in this city, I cannot do that if the city will not incentivize and support dense development, because at the end of the day, a downtown that is hollowed out is representative of the entire city, and as someone who works in the creative sector, a dense, vibrant and diverse community is required for my success in this city. London needs to stop acting like a small town, and approve these towers, nothing will get better in this city until we fully take the plunge into healthy urbanization, and realize that we are a big city now, it is time to act like it and make the right choices accordingly, and stop letting NIMBY's dictate our future.

Thanks for reading,

Patrick