

From:

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 4:38 PM

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Cc: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; London Society of Architects; Urban Design; Planning and Development <PlanDev@london.ca>;

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urban Design Peer Review Panel

Hello members of London City Council

I am writing with regards to the proposal submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee meeting of October 3rd by by councillors Lewis and Lehman to immediately dissolve the Urban Design Peer Review Panel (UDPRP).

We are indeed in a housing crisis like nothing experienced before. This is a complex multi-level issue that can in part be addressed through zoning reviews, financial incentives and dis-incentives, etc. — not by sweeping aside important processes that ensure higher quality city-building standards. I would argue that a review of UDPRP may be valuable to revise its recommendations to become binding as is the case in a number of other municipalities.

At a time when we are more in need of a wide range of good quality housing than ever the role of the UDPRP is critical to ensure more than speedy profit margins are being taken into consideration as we try to build an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable city.

The Urban Design Peer Review Panel and its highly qualified volunteer members provide important expertise and guidance that is a key part of the planning and construction process. They spur a higher standard of design for our city's long-term built environment. An environment and a city that our children's children will inherit, and live in.

Municipalities across Canada have similar committees in place. Please do not embarrass our city by this initiative that would result in us being more regressive and under scrutiny for undue influence from private interests, especially in the immediate aftermath of the Greenbelt scandal and the voting down of a municipal lobbyist registry. It is disturbing that this proposal has been fast-tracked without any public consultation or due process, and that there were already a handful of communications in support of it from private developers who arguably stand to benefit from this proposed dissolution.

I join other city-building voices and urge you to carefully and thoughtfully consider the larger picture and help businesses, organizations, staff, and citizens to build a city of which we can all be proud — one that will allow everyone to have a safe, affordable, and attractive home.

Regards,

Sandra Miller

City Builder & Member of

