



300 Dufferin Avenue

P.O. Box 5035

London, ON

N6A 4L9

October 17th 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As everyone is aware, our community, our province, and our country is in the midst of a housing crisis like nothing experienced before. It needs not to be said, but quality city building also remains an important priority for Council and staff.

Prior to deciding to dissolve the Urban Design Peer Review Panel (UDPRP), more information is needed. Council needs to understand if the UDPRP is actually causing delays, costs, and frustration prior to dissolving it entirely. Many buildings reviewed by UDPRP are not even residential, so commercial, nonprofit, community buildings would also suffer from this decision.

Council should seek to understand any unintended consequences, prior to making a hasty decision that actually has no real urgency. Our understanding is that the UDPRP exists for city-led projects as well, and if dissolved would require hiring external peer reviewers at additional cost to the municipality. As well, UDPRP often highlights deficiencies in applications that are discovered later in the process, and then must be addressed at SPA, simply shifting when the issue is addressed. As Councillors, we'd like to make an informed decision on this matter.

Examples of positive improvement to form and interaction with public realm following UDPRP consultation:

- Commercial development at 551 Oxford Street West (northeast corner of Oxford Street West/Wonderland Road North)
- StarTech.com Community Centre (501 Southdale Road West)
- East Lions Community Centre (1731 Churchill Avenue)
- Villas of Wortley (89 Ridout Street South)
- Goodlife Building (710 Proudfoot Lane)
- EMS Facility (1030 Adelaide Street South)
- Amit Chakma Engineering Building, Western University (1151 Richmond Street)
- Mixed-use development (1600 Hyde Park Road) – U/C
- Mixed-use development (1761 Wonderland Road N) – U/C
- Vet Clinic (1541 Hyde Park Road)
- Stackhouse Residential Development (1375-1405 Stackhouse Ave) – U/C
- North London Toyota Dealership (1515 Fanshawe Park Road)
- Residential development (801 Sarnia Road) – U/C
- Residential development (235 Kennington Way) – U/C
- Fox Hollow Senior's Care (2155 Dalmagarry)



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Finally, this is committee business and should not be debated at Council until it is debated at committee. We weren't even able to hear the delegation for this item at PEC, which is very unfortunate since committee offers the only public opportunity for people to speak to the item. For those unaware, this was not processed at PEC due to losing quorum prior to addressing it.

Therefore, we are asking your support for the following amendment:

- *That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a report to the Planning and Environment Committee by end of Q4 2023 outlining the actions required to dissolve the Urban Design Peer Review Panel, as well as any consequences of that dissolution, and seek input from the community on this decision.*

Thank you for your consideration and raising this important topic as we both agree it is important to improve and streamline our processes,

Skylar Franke
Ward 11 City Councillor

Anna Hopkins
Ward 9 City Councillor