

From:

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 6:59 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urban Design Peer Review Panel

Please add my letter to the added Council agenda Thank You

AnnaMaria Valastro

Dear Members of Council,

The Urban Design Panel should consist of independent architects. Urban design staff do not have the same skill set or consider the same qualities as the Urban Design Panel. This can be reviewed and verified in past comments from urban design staff compared to the Urban Design Panel.

It is advantageous for Councillors Shawn Lewis and Steve Lehman to say that there is a housing crisis when in fact, they show no evidence that one exists. There is an housing affordability crisis that has led to a homelessness crisis that is well documented.

It is disingenuous to use an unproven excuse of housing shortages to remove all checks and balances in developing good housing and good neighbourhoods. **It a smoke and mirror argument to prop up the development industry so they can build cheaper and uglier.**

And the reason residents are so suspicious of the motives of Council in their self righteousness.

Building more housing of any kind is not reducing the cost of rentals or housing. Just look around. Any reduction in pricing is due to interest rates and not building rates. There is not enough middle income housing to balance the luxury housing that is being built to make 'market value rent' affordable to those that are at risk of homelessness.

It would be refreshing if Councillors were independent thinkers and not just follow the words of Councillors Lewis and Lehman.

AnnaMaria Valastro