

November 26, 2023

Dear Mayor Morgan and members of City Council

We are a group of community members, who reside in Midtown. A small but strong inner-city neighbourhood, located in the middle of London's Core Area. On one side we have Downtown (BIA), and on the other side we have Old East Village (BIA). Midtown Community Organization just formed last year, and we are on the road to building our resilient community.

Today MCO writes to City Council about Council Agenda 8.1, 27th Report of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee item 10 (2.4) 2023-2027 City of London Strategic Plan: Core Area.

We were surprised to see this report come before the SPPC last week. For we have been asking many months now, to be able to have meaningful conversations regarding the development of this report, and help with the navigation, of Midtowns, and the wider core areas future.

After reading the details of this report, we have a few questions.

The Report mentioned the arts, culture, and music.

We understand the importance of how the arts play a role in adding vibrancy in the core. That is why we are asking city council to direct city staff, to amend the official boundaries of the Music, Entertainment & Culture Districts, so that it will encompass and include the middle of the Core Area.

City Council might not be aware of this, but Midtown, has two of the best secondary schools located in the core area. (H.B. Beal and Catholic Central High School) each have their own highly exceptional art programs, and I would even go further and say in the region. This is where the arts are born in London and has been happening for decades.

Another item in this report talks about "Develop capacities in Midtown to increase economic and community wellbeing".

We would like to know if the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant, and the Residential Development Charges Grant programs that are currently being offered in the Downtown and Old East Village. If those programs would also be coming to Midtown? For anything that can help in laying down the foundation in bringing private investment to help with building residential buildings, that allows for all income levels from luxury apartments to affordable apartment buildings is very much needed.

In closing we here at MCO would welcome further engagement opportunities.

Thank you,

Regards,

Deanna Brown, Coordinator

Midtown Community Organization