

From: St. Mary's Syro Malabar Catholic Church, London, ON <info@stmaryslondon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:30 AM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Cc: McAlister, Hadleigh <hmcaster@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Endorsements for Zoning By-Law Amendment – Inclusion of Place of Worship Use

Dear Members of the Planning and Environment Committee and councilor

I am writing to bring to your attention the overwhelming support and endorsement of the community members for the proposed zoning by-law amendment, which seeks to include a place of worship use within the existing zoning regulations.

Our vibrant immigrant community with a mix of cultures and traditions, and the proposed amendment aligns seamlessly with the diverse values that make our city neighborhoods unique. We have undertaken a comprehensive outreach effort to gauge the sentiments of the community members, and I am pleased to report that the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The consensus among our fellow community members is clear: there is a strong desire for a larger dedicated space for worship, cultural activities, and community gatherings.

The reasons behind this support are rooted in the belief that such a place will serve as a focal point for community unity, fostering a sense of belonging and identity among residents. It is not merely about the building; rather, it is about nurturing an environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together to celebrate their traditions, share experiences, and strengthen the social fabric of our community.

We have attached endorsements signed by a substantial number of residents, expressing their explicit support for the zoning by-law amendment. In embracing this amendment, we believe that the Planning and Environment Committee will not only be responding to the needs of our community but will also be contributing to the enrichment and diversity of our city. The proposed place of worship will be a symbol of unity, tolerance, and shared values, echoing the principles that our great nation holds dear.

We kindly request that you consider the sentiments expressed by the community members and give due weight to their overwhelming endorsement as you deliberate on this matter. We believe that this zoning by-law amendment will not only enhance the cultural and social vibrancy of our neighborhood but will also contribute positively to the overall well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our community's aspirations. We eagerly await a favorable decision that reflects the inclusive spirit that defines both our neighborhood and our nation.

Sincerely,

Fr. Plogen Antony • Vicar
c +1 226 238 3336
e info@stmaryslondon.ca **w** stmaryslondonca.org
a 245 King Edward Ave, London, ON N5Z 3V1