

Added Communication To London City Council Meeting May 20th

London City Council
City Clerk's Office
Added Communication for May 20th Council Meeting
300 Dufferin
London, Ontario
519 661 2500

David Dimitrie
412-1128 Adelaide St. N.
London, Ontario
N5Y 2N7

Re: Planning & Environment Committee Report of May 13th Meeting
Failure of City of London Planning Department to adequately inform residents of Feb. 12,
2012 Public Information Planning Meeting on the Property at 1103 Adelaide St. N.

Planning Committee failed to adequately address the failure of the Planning Department's legal duty to erect a planning information sign at 1103 Adelaide St. N before the meeting on February 12, 2012. I contend that this was a violation of provisions of the Planning Act (seen below). I am the only person who has gone on record in writing to point out this gross mistake.

Council needs to debate if decisions at this meeting not held according to Planning Act legislation are valid or should be revisited after proper notification takes place. The time that has passed does not justify the errors made. I had to do an immense amount of research to uncover these facts.

1. My name is David Dimitrie. I live at 412-1128 Adelaide St. N., London, Ontario. I have lived across the street from 1103 Adelaide St. N. Since May of 2011. I am making this written public statement to state that no Planning sign was ever erected at 1103 Adelaide St. N. I live across the street from 1103 Adelaide St. N.

I drive by, ride by and walk by it several times each day on a daily basis. It was never put on this property. I have made this statement in my submission to the Planning and Environment Committee in writing. I have photos that back up the lack of notification by the City on this project for a great deal of the time since this garage was closed on August 31, 2011.

I made the same statement to Councillors Paul Hubert and Chair Joni Baechler several times in writing and verbally to Chair Baechler. I have photos of this property going back to August 2011 when the auto garage on this site closed its doors. No signs!

Relevant Legislation

Ontario Planning Act

(4) Notice shall be given,

(b) by posting a notice, clearly visible and legible from a public highway or other place to which the public has access, at every separately assessed property within the subject land or, if posting on the property is impractical, at a nearby location chosen by the clerk of the municipality or the secretary-treasurer of the planning board. O. Reg. 545/06, s. 5 (4).

2. Councilor Hubert knows the history of this notification problem dating back to 2007 and the ETC Committee. Staff failed in 2007 to fix the problem. For whatever reason, the Planning and Environment Committee has decided to send it back to them again for yet another try.

It is long overdue for the City of London and its Council to end the discrimination against tenants in the area of notification. I attended ETC in 2007 and I thought the problem was fixed then when changes to Section 7(14) of the City Policy Manual were made by staff and approved by the Council of the day.

I was wrong. In this case, the Planning Dept. has made it clear to me that they don't believe that the 2007 change applies to them. Even though they have made it clear to me that they believe the Planning Act is what they are to follow they have failed to follow the section above in this case related to signage.

It is ludicrous to think that tenants will have to plead with each London civic department for proper notification as each one seems to go by their own rules.

How can Councillors expect tenants to vote when they are treated this way?

At some point the City of London needs to institute a blanket policy involving notification that treats tenants in the same way that homeowners are treated. Tenants don't want letters in their lobby that can be torn down.

They want letters in their mailboxes just like homeowners get. Tenants have all the responsibilities of being a London resident but we continue to be second class citizens when it comes to notification. It is galling that so many City Councillors and staffers think that it is okay for tenants to have to rely on the goodwill of their landlords for vital civic information.

To this end I have already written Barbara Hall, Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and presented her with the facts of this case. As Commissioner she can choose to investigate incidents of systemic discrimination that affects large numbers of persons (tenants).

I look forward to this once Mayor of Toronto's response to my inquiry. I encourage any other London tenant who has had trouble receiving letters, notification of meetings etc. From the City of London to contact the OHRC with their story in their own words.

It appears that the City of London is very reluctant to end the discrimination of tenants in the area of notification. The issue that I brought to the Planning and Environment Committee on May 13th was sent back to staff for another try where it will likely die a slow death regardless of what is recommended. Staff and ETC had a chance to fix this in 2007 and it didn't get done.

Sincerely,
David Dimitrie
Resident, Ward 4