



BISHOP HELLMUTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A member of the Urban League of London

September 29, 2011

London City Council
c/o J. Bunn, Office of the City Clerk
City of London, ON N6B 1Z2

RE: REQUEST FOR DEMOLITION OF HOUSE AT 764 WATERLOO STREET

To the Mayor and Members of the London City Council:


Members of the Bishop Hellmuth Community Association met Tuesday, September 20, 2011, to discuss the application by Fahri Holdings Inc. for the demolition of the house at 764 Waterloo Street. It was recognized that the demolition would weaken the southeast corner of our Heritage Conservation District and that it could set a precedent for further demolitions near that corner and elsewhere in the District. **As a result, those present at the BHCA meeting voted to oppose the demolition of the house until a site plan is in place for further development on the property at 764 Waterloo Street and on the lots immediately to the south.** As you know, this position was supported by fifteen letters sent to the Built and Natural Environment Committee and by several speeches at the committee meeting.

At the BNEC meeting on September 26, a motion was passed allowing for the demolition of the house but requiring that the Community Association be consulted regarding development plans for the subject property and contingent lands to the south on the northwest corner of the Oxford/Waterloo Street intersection. **We wish to ensure that the development plans involve not only consultation with the BHCA, but also acceptance by the neighbourhood association.** A precedent for this procedure was established in 1998, when, apropos an application for rezoning of 765 and 767 Hellmuth Street, Mr. Berthoty, the potential developer, was directed by Council to "bring forward a revised proposal, after he has scheduled a meeting of interested people in the neighbourhood to determine acceptable alternatives to the development site." In this case, the neighbourhood association wishes to be involved in every stage of the re-development plans, including re-zoning, site plan, and urban design.

The Community Association also supports other clauses in the BNEC motion, requiring that LACH be in agreement with plans for the redevelopment of the site and that, during the time required for the completion of development plans, the entire corner property be landscaped in a fashion less disfiguring to the neighbourhood. Finally, the BHNA wishes, once again, to emphasize the need for measures that will prohibit the ongoing practice of "demolition by neglect."

Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,


Craille-Scott Barre, Member of the
BHCA Executive Committee, on behalf
Mari Parks, BHNA Chair