

September 4, 2015

Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee

Re: Redevelopment in London's Downtown

With the increase of planning applications within the Downtown Community Improvement Plan boundaries, I believe it is important that we address an issue that I believe is holding downtown development back and that is the practice of approving temporary use by-laws to permit surface treated commercial parking lots.

I believe it is important for Municipal Council to ensure that all surface treated commercial lots within the downtown, are properly zoned, and to also ensure that the policies as articulated in the Downtown Master Plan, Our Move Forward, are adhered to for any applications that come forward for the approval of temporary use by-laws for such uses.

In order to see progress on this situation I ask that a member of the Planning and Environment Committee bring forward the following recommendation:

“That the following actions be taken to assist with encouraging redevelopment of vacant lots in London's downtown:

- a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to review and report back to a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee on the status of all commercial parking lots in the downtown to confirm that these properties are zoned appropriately to permit the use;
- b) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to ensure that the policies contained within the Downtown Master Plan, Our Move Forward, that discourage the extension of temporary use by-laws for the establishment of commercial parking uses in the downtown, be considered during the evaluation of any new applications or applications for the extension of an existing temporary use by-law, for the creation of new commercial parking and,
- c) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back to a future meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee as how best to expedite the creation and implementation of a downtown parking strategy.”

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Park  
Councillor, Ward 13