

April 19, 2016

City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue P.O. Box 5035  
London ON N6A 4L9

**RE: Letter of support for the demolition of 1656 Hyde Park Road**

The Hyde Park Business Association (HPBA) is a valued partner in the community as a strong player in several high profile development and social projects that promote business and community involvement and growth operating with volunteer involvement representing area businesses. A few of the most notable projects include:

- i) the Piano Project - London's first community piano in a park – that will be celebrating its 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2016 and brings together businesses, community members, non-profit groups, schools, and the City of London.
- ii) the support of the newly renovated North West London Resource Centre and its' commercial kitchen, and
- iii) the Hyde Park Road Widening committee, where HPBA acts as a liaison between the City of London and local businesses for communication, community participation, etc.

With the Hyde Park and Gainsborough area rapidly changing, and now that the road widening approaches completion, there presents opportunities for new commercial development and growth in the area that is consistent with current zoning.

As such, the HPBA has a role ensuring that this growth and development happens in a manner that supports residents and businesses and the concept of the Hyde Park community as per the Hyde Park Official Community Plan and its' designation in the new London Plan.

To that end, the Hyde Park Business Association met with the Developer, HLH and the Planner, Zelinka Priamo Ltd on April 13, 2016 to discuss the proposed demolition of the structure at 1656 Hyde Park Road.

Topics discussed included the existing structure on site and its state of disrepair (including footing and foundation), limitation of use this structure presents and the reduction in the scope of the proposed development by HLH on the south side of North Routledge and Hyde Park road if structure remains.

Also discussed was the unique character and heritage the structure presents for this area, and the importance of preserving, honouring and integrating some of the character elements of the structure into design of the future development.

Although our first choice was to see the building maintained, we understand that it is not possible, given the structural condition, therefore, looking at all of the options. *The HPBA supports the related demolition of 1656 Hyde Park Road providing the Planner and Developer follow through as discussed and agreed to honor the history of this intersection by integrating the character of the dwelling in the new construction*, such as using the reclaimed brick from the structure, adding replica 'gingerbread' features throughout the development (e.g., in public spaces/pergola) and a commemorative plaque with possible photo story board (if sufficient info available) about the dwelling somewhere at the corner of North Routledge and Hyde Park Road on the new building.

In summary, the HPBA supports the vision of HLH's development along Hyde Park Road west between Gainsborough and North Routledge. It is our position that the new commercial space being developed for small business fits well within the vision of a pedestrian, commercial, village destination and will attract, retain and grow businesses in the Hyde Park area resulting an overall positive impact to the City and its residents.

Regards,  
Donna Szpakowski  
President; Hyde Park Business Association

CC: Josh Morgan, Ward 7 Councillor, City of London, K. Gonyou, Heritage Planner, City of London  
Michelle Doombosch, Zelinka Priamo Ltd; Harry Hermann, HLH Investments Ltd