

Please include this in the agenda package.

Dear Members of Planning and Environment Committee,

I am writing to ask you to recommend the designation of Camden Terrace and to request the developer, Rygar, to incorporate the front part of the building, not a replica facade in the foyer, into the new infill development. (Of course some changes would be necessary and desirable and would be permitted by a Heritage Alteration Permit.) There are many fine examples, in Toronto and other Ontario communities, where heritage buildings have been saved and creatively incorporated into new developments. It can and should happen in London too. This is a wonderful opportunity to adaptively reuse Camden Terrace as part of a unique new complex of which all Londoners would be proud. Once again 479-489 Talbot St. would be a sought after address for many potential residents who now wish to live in our heritage downtown.

The London Plan, to which the City and so many Londoners contributed, supports inward and upward growth and also values London's built heritage. The Rygar development, with Camden Terrace incorporated in situ, fits well with the London Plan.

Camden Terrace should be conserved for many reasons. Historically it has been home to noteworthy Londoners including Samuel Peters Junior. It is an outstanding example of 19th century upscale row housing with many noteworthy architectural features. It is especially important to conserve because it is one of the last heritage buildings remaining on Talbot St. that can still give us a glimpse of this early residential neighbourhood where many of London's elite lived. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

It is so very sad that this once elegant building has been neglected and allowed to deteriorate so that it is now in an unsafe condition. It seems clear that the developer purchased the building with the intention of allowing it to be demolished by neglect. Windows were left open and doors unsecured. The deterioration was facilitated when the City did not conduct onsite inspections of the building's condition, despite being informed of these problems. If demolition does occur it will continue an unfortunate trend in London where demolition by neglect happens all too often. Please don't let it happen again.

I urge you to recommend designation to protect this beloved heritage gem for future generations.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Marlyn Loft
784 Wellington St.