

From: Dianne Lesperance  
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 5:05 PM  
To: Lysynski, Heather <[hlysynsk@London.ca](mailto:hlysynsk@London.ca)>  
Subject: Planning for Richmond Row Area

I have been looking over the notice I received from city hall this past week and let me start by expressing my complete support to moving ahead with plans to improve and invest in the Richmond Row area and beyond.

Let me give you a little of my own personal history. I was born and raised in the city of London and at the age of 19 was a passenger on a motor cycle that left the road from which I received catastrophic injuries for which initially I wasn't expected to survive. However, I survived and thrived, moved out of the city and then returned to the city and now live in the core of the city. In 1969-72 I was the first student on the main campus in a wheelchair and led the charge along with two or three other students and faculty to make the campus accessible. During that time we also approached the city regarding accessibility and lead the charge and were responsible for pioneering accessible intersections, wheelchair parking and accessible washroom facilities in all buildings which come up to full code. That was 45 years ago and guess what, the work is not done. I met Paul Hubert when his wife was at Parkwood Hospital and I am certain he will give the nod to my integrity and vision for a community that embraces everyone.

That leads us to my top priority, accessibility. Living right in the core myself for the past year, I am shocked at how many places are not accessible. One quarter of the population of the city are seniors and of those a significant number have accessibility needs. A top priority should be to make the core accessible in every possible way.

My final recommendation is to stretch the plan to the other side of Victoria Park to embrace City Hall and Centennial Hall and the businesses down to Pall Mall Street and west to Richmond Street. This is the core of the city now and should be exposed and highlighted as an integral part of our community.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to voice my support of the plan add a couple of suggestions. Let us lead the charge.

Sincerely,  
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Dianne Lesperance  
Wellington Park, Suite 403,  
250 Pall Mall Street,  
London, Ontario N6A 6K3