

From: Kae Elgie

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 9:14 AM

To: Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>; Cassidy, Maureen <mcassidy@london.ca>; Helmer, Jesse <jhelmer@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Park, Tanya <tpark@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>

Cc: Gonyou, Kyle <kgonyou@london.ca>; Lysynski, Heather <hlysynsk@London.ca>

Subject: Please send the right message re: 172 Central Avenue London

Dear London City Council, Planning and Environment Committee,

I recently learned of the important decision facing you on Monday July 16: whether to carry out your legislated duty to conserve significant heritage resources, or reward property owners' neglect and shoddy maintenance by allowing the demolition of an important heritage resource.

The 2014 [Provincial Policy Statement](#), under the Planning Act, states clearly in section 2.6.1 that "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes **shall** be conserved." The Ontario Heritage Act delegates this obligation to municipal councils.

The historical significance of 172 Central Avenue, its history as the home of the Dr. Oronhyaetkha, one of Canada's first Indigenous medical doctors and the first Indigenous person to attend Oxford University, is alone enough reason to designate and conserve this property, according to the Ontario Heritage Act. Such an association is particularly relevant in these post Truth and Reconciliation Commission days. The historical association with noted Canadian artist Tony Urquhart is another. Its architectural structure is a third -- but note that only one criterion is required to render a property a "significant built heritage resource" under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The fact that the property has been included in your city's Heritage Building Inventory since 1987 is further proof of the value citizens, represented by their City Council, have placed on this property for over 30 years.

Mr. Mitsis's seeming "surprise" at the "resistance we are receiving" is itself surprising. Surely he would have investigated the property he was buying, and surely he would have been aware of its heritage significance.

This is a great opportunity for you, as Councillors, to educate the public about your role in enforcing the province's legislated heritage protection policies.

This property is an important **community** resource, and community standards apply. People may think there shouldn't be a restriction on parking in a particular location, or they may not notice a NO PARKING sign, but they can nevertheless expect to get a parking ticket. So should people who buy listed heritage properties expect to have to maintain them.

Just because people own a car does not give them the right to flaunt the parking bylaws.

Just because people own a house does not give them the right to flaunt the heritage bylaws. In both cases, the laws are there for the common good, the good of the whole community. They are more important than one person's right to "freedom" to park, or destroy, wherever they want.

Please use this opportunity to educate the citizens of London about your important heritage protection role, and the value of this to the community.

Thanking you in advance,

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