

**From:** Tristan Squire-Smith

**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:52 AM

**To:** Knieriem, Michelle <[mknieriem@london.ca](mailto:mknieriem@london.ca)>; Fleming, John M. <[JmFlemin@london.ca](mailto:JmFlemin@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] forwarding opinion in absentia

Good morning Michelle and John,

I wanted to thank you both for your ongoing efforts surrounding future planning of the lands around Victoria Park. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the upcoming public meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>; instead, I'm hoping you will accept this short message as my 'vote' in absentia with you both acting as my proxies.

Ultimately, my position has not changed. I am absolutely in favour of developing the lands immediately surrounding the park as existing buildings and/or parking lots are converted into multi-dwelling high-rise buildings.

As someone who works downtown Mon-Fri, I have a natural interest in living in the area; my quality of life only stands to benefit from being able to walk to work and my various other commitments in the area. Much has already been said about the benefits of urban densification and my experience/desires only stand as a testimony to this rationale. Unfortunately, for a downtown to thrive and attract new development, business, services (i.e. a grocery store) etc. continuously and sustainably, a minimum threshold of local residents needs to be reached; we're getting closer to this point but we're not there yet. Each new tower that is populated gets us one step closer; in my opinion, City planning policies need to be reflective of this basic reality and supportive of such development and growth at every reasonable opportunity.

Therefore, my hope and 'vote' supports any changes in planning policy which see fit to construct high rises in the lands immediately surrounding Victoria Park. Please resist any pressure to water down densification efforts that would see reduction of maximum building elevations or off-sets from high-rise to mere mid or low-rise; instead, push any approved developer to propose innovative and beautiful award-winning designs that would serve as iconic complimentary landmarks to the park grounds themselves.

In advance, thank you for taking my sentiments into consideration at the next steps of the planning process.

Respectfully,

Tristan Squire-Smith, MBA

Chief Operating Officer

Refcio & Associates

Barristers and Solicitors

[www.rrlaw.ca](http://www.rrlaw.ca)

