

There are maybe 4 or 6 developers that dominate new development in this city. They have the wealth to accumulate land and shape this city in their own image. And I am growing cynical that the voices of residents that actually live in these areas is being heard.

When I look around at Victoria Park, I don't see one single building that is worthy of being torn down. There is nothing wrong with Victoria Park as it currently stands. But we have a few very aggressive developers who invested in land acquisition and now they want a big return on their money.

At the very first public meeting on this issue, a city planner stated it was important to ensure investors get a return for their investment such as London Life who purchased Centennial Hall in the 1960s.

That same consideration wasn't afforded to the residents of 155 Kent st., whose condo value plummeted when the city awarded Old Oak Properties that licensee to build a tower metres away from someone's private residence blocking their view and sunshine.

This is about wealthy individuals elbowing and bullying for views of Victoria Park as a selling feature for prospective buyers at the expense of local residents.

Don't box in the park. There is not one single building that is worthy of demolition around the park, and in the future any new development should maintain the current height of the building removed.

This whole idea that if we don't grow we die, is a falsehood. If we grow without checks and balances we will certainly die. There are currently many, many options of open spaces to build in the downtown. I personally don't care how rich someone is. They do not have greater rights than someone that is not wealthy but actually lives in these communities.

I am asking that the height limit around Victoria Park be lowered to maintain its current status so not to block sunshine and give local residents a sense of open space, something that is quickly disappearing in the downtown.

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