

BY EMAIL cmaton@london.ca

May 20, 2021

City of London

ATTN: Catherine Maton, File Planner

RE: Public Meeting submission for 435-451 Ridout Street North (aka Ridout Street Complex)

Please see below and attached a written submission for the upcoming Public Meeting for the Ridout Street Complex on Monday, May 31, 2021. (File No. OZ-9157)

Let me begin by saying that these comments were prepared in my capacity as a member of the London Advisory Committee of Heritage. In 2020, I had the opportunity to review the Notice of Application together with supporting reports and materials, including the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared for the proposed redevelopment of this National Historic Site. Formal comments were submitted by LACH to the Planning & Environment Committee at the time of the HIA review in 2020. The Notice for the upcoming Public Meeting will not be received and reviewed by LACH until its June meeting.

Please note that the attached comments are submitted as a private citizen and do not represent the opinion of the Advisory Committee.

To set these comments in context, I do not oppose the redevelopment of the Ridout Street Complex or any other heritage property. Over time heritage buildings must be re-purposed. The Ridout Street Complex is a good example of how these structures have had many uses and many different occupancies during their lifetime. Rather than being viewed as under threat, let's reframe the conversation. Historical assets at the heart of our city like the Ridout Street Complex represent significant community assets and opportunities for their Owners. The goal must be to find a viable future use for these buildings so that they can continue to serve our community in a meaningful way rather than sit vacant, falling into decay.

I support the efforts to find a renewed purpose for these vacant heritage buildings.

The issue is not whether to redevelop the site but how this can be achieved without compromising the heritage structures – both onsite and at neighbouring properties. The Heritage Impact Assessment included a number of recommendations for further study. The outcomes of these more detailed reviews should be used to scope and shape the application into a more cohesive and compatible proposal that does not overshadow or overwhelm this unique Georgian streetscape.

I encourage the City and the Owner to continue to work together so that more detailed work can be completed to develop a reasonable and realistic redevelopment plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public submission.

E.J. Rath, CMO