

From: Oliver Whitehead
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 2:50 PM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Cc: Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] File: OZ-9157 435-451 Ridout St N ZBA Application

Please include the following submission in the agenda for the forthcoming meeting (May 31) that goes to Planning Cttee members.

To the members of the Planning and Environment Committee:

The proposed site is a highly sensitive area of the city, right on the edge of one of its most valuable green spaces, Harris Park, and also immediately adjacent to the Ridout buildings designated as a Canadian Historic Site.

I'm no engineer, but it does seem obvious that the footprint of the site itself is highly dubious as the base of the proposed structure. At the very least, it would drastically alter the geography of this whole area.

More troublingly, a towering, 40-storey structure on this spot would detract from the value of both Harris Park and the Ridout Historic Site by dwarfing and degrading their appearance and effect. Indeed, long-term it would certainly threaten the slow deterioration and ultimate extinction of these irreplaceable buildings.

We have seen what happens when the city government allows developers free rein to exploit downtown properties (the demolition of the Talbot St block and the destruction of the beautiful Camden Terrace, among other examples). Let's not allow history to repeat itself--again.

I urge all members of the Planning and Environment Committee to roundly reject this proposal, and to throw their support behind developments on more appropriate sites, many of which are already under way.

Yours Sincerely,

Oliver Whitehead,
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