

June 7, 2021

To the Mayor and Members of City Council

Re: File OZ-9157 – Planning Application for 435-451 Ridout St. N., including 40-storey mixed-use building

I am writing to you regarding the Notice of Planning Application by Farhi Holdings Corporation for 435-451 Ridout St. N. I hope the city will turn down this proposal for the following reasons:

- While design appeal is subjective, I believe the proposed 40-storey highrise is not in keeping with the style of the current heritage buildings, a National Historic site. The Ridout Restoration provides a capsule view of the appearance of mid-nineteenth century Ontario cities. It cannot continue to do so with an unsympathetic contemporary development behind.
- Besides the Ridout Restoration, this part of Ridout Street contains: Eldon House, London's oldest house; Museum London, the city's best known gallery; the Old Courthouse, the city's oldest building. Together, the streetscape constitutes the heart of London, of interest to tourists. A skyscraper will overwhelm and diminish the other structures, making this area look less like London, Ontario and more like the bland modernity found everywhere.
- The proposed tower sets a precedent for more towers to be built along the Thames downtown. When highrises crowd the waterfront, they detract from the ambiance of the river forks, Harris Park, walking paths, and river view.
- There is other available space downtown on which to build, including space already owned by Farhi Holdings. The tower should be built on one of those spaces, not a site where there are already heritage buildings. While the city cannot *force* developers to build on certain spaces, the city can certainly tell developers where *not* to build.

I urge the city to turn down the Farhi Landholdings proposal.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grainger

Copy: jbunn@london.ca, Chair of LACH through Jerri Bunn, LACH Committee Secretary.