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C. Wilson  
36 Blackfriars Street  
London, ON N6H 1K6

July 12, 2013

Ms. Heather Lysynski  
Committee Secretary  
Planning and Environment Committee  
P. O. Box 5035  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Good Day Chair and Members, Planning and Environment Committee;

I am requesting that this Committee consider two requests:

1. To expand the boundaries of the Downtown Community Improvement Area to include my property at 36 Blackfriars Street
2. To expand the boundaries to include the Blackfriars Heritage area as part of the Downtown Community Improvement

In order to be eligible to access the following improvement programs:

- Upgraded Building Code Grant, Forgivable Loan, Low Interest Loan
- Façade Program Grant, Forgivable Loan, Low Interest Loan
- Heritage Grant, Forgivable Loan, Low Interest Loan
- Rehabilitation Grant, Forgivable Loan, Low Interest Loan

I am making these requests based on the location, Historical presence and part of London's Heritage Area.

A neighbourhood such as "Blackfriars" that is considered a "Heritage Historical" area should be revitalized and restored and included in the Downtown Improvement Area. This area of London has a high volume of pedestrians and vehicle traffic in London and should reflect its Heritage status.

The Blackfriars Bridge is a one of a kind structure was chosen for the elusion of a "Floating Bridge". Originally the Blackfriars Bridge was the direct access route to the Carling Brewery Factory on Carling Street, although the brewery is no longer standing it is covered in the Downtown area. It also allowed farmers from the west side of the river to go to market to sell, purchase needed merchandise or to work. The bridge was the means to connect the west to the centre and east London. Today, it is known as the back door to the downtown area. The Blackfriars Street Neighbourhood has now been designated as a "Heritage Area" and still is considered a "Flood Zone". When The Bridge is under construction Oxford Street East and Riverside Drive are extremely congested. Prior to posting 2-hour parking zone, individuals would park their vehicles on Blackfriars Street and walk to work (Healthy Choice). Foot and Vehicle traffic increases dynamically when there are Events and the JLB, Victoria Park, Harris Park, Baseball Park and in the summer the Water Park, just to mention a few.

I live in an historical neighbourhood filled with culture from the past and present. It is my belief that this neighbourhood should be restored and rehabilitated to show what London use to be, not what commercialized is. The neighbourhood is filled with single-family homes that are occupied by a diverse population especially in the financial aspect. If the area were included in the downtown area the Blackfriars Neighbourhood would have the ability to apply for financial assistance to renovate their homes and add landscaping to properties.

The Blackfriars area is deteriorating due to age and lack of funding for improvements. If incorporated into the Downtown Community Improvement Area this will allow residents of the neighborhood to apply for Grants, Forgivable Loans and Low Interest Loans to rehabilitate and renovate their homes. The investment of the funding will restore, revitalize and rehabilitate to reflect the beauty of the peaceful culture enriched area of London. With the improvements, with strict guideline to restore, revitalized, rehabilitate to rebuild not new builds; the properties will give the area a Curbside Appeal that will increase the values both in property and visible value. Between foot and vehicle traffic, curbside appeal promotes individuals to take a second look and encourages neighbors to reconsider creating their own property uniqueness. It only takes one to get the ball rolling and the rest will follow.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to submit these requests for consideration of the Committee's approval of moving the downtown boundaries to include my property of 36 Blackfriars Street, London in order for me to become eligible for renovation improvement grants and loans, as well as expanding the boundaries to include the Heritage area of Blackfriars in the City of London to be included in the Downtown Improvement Area.

Sincerely,



C. Wilson  
London Resident