



July 19, 2022

Planning & Environment Committee
The City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6B 1Z2

Re: ***The Fugitive Slave Chapel Project***

Dear Committee Members:

The ***London Black History Coordinating Committee*** was formed out of a desire to increase awareness of Black History and Heritage, and Black History Month activities in the London area and to highlight the contributions of London's diverse Black community. LBHCC is dedicated to providing educational programs, activities and services that increases public understanding and awareness of the diversity and history of London's Black community.

2022 marked the 20th anniversary of our committee. During the last twenty years, the LBHCC has organized events and has been the 'clearing house' for other events organized by other groups from the Windsor area to the London/Middlesex community. As a volunteer led and run organization, LBHCC partners with others to present and deliver programs not only during February/Black History Month but other times of the year.

Black History did not start and end with Slavery, but those four hundred years were important as it demonstrated in real, concrete and very poignant ways, the resilience and strength of people of African descent, wherever they may have ended up in the diaspora. ***The Fugitive Slave Chapel*** is an important part of that history in London and moving it to Fanshawe Pioneer Village will ensure our history is part of the broader history of London. A restored Chapel will also ensure that students and the public will have a real interpretation of the history of Black settlers who helped build our urban and rural communities for more than two hundred years. The Chapel will also fit in with the other historical buildings at the Pioneer Village and will provide a better setting for the telling of the history of the Black settlement in London and Middlesex County.

Our members are in support of the Heritage Alteration Permit to remove the building known as the Fugitive Slave Chapel from the property at 432 Grey Street, for relocation and restoration at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. This is an important journey for all of us and we are excited to be part of this work.

On behalf of the LBHCC, we hope you will support this move and join with so many others in supporting this exciting and very worthwhile project. But more importantly, we hope that you can recognize that London's Black History is London's history, Canada's history and for those reasons, is critical to preserve, protect and to promote now and in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Cadogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carl Cadogan, Chair
London Black History Coordinating Committee
C/O London Cross Cultural Learner Centre
505 Dundas Street
London, Ontario
N6B 1W4