



August 15, 2013

Dear Mayor and Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

This correspondence will specifically address the Old East Village BIA consideration of the proposal for security cameras to be located in the alleyway between 632 and 634 Dundas Street.

The OEV BIA supports the installation of surveillance cameras as part of a complete package geared to effectively eliminating the physical environment that make this specific 300 square foot piece of real estate attractive to persons who commit criminal acts. This complete package or toolkit of actions would include the following:

1. Consultation with affected businesses about the most effective and timely location of cameras.

2. Increased lighting in and around the affected area.

3. Increased police presence.

4. The creation of a community task force supported by City staff to conduct neighbourhood consultations about issues and solutions to inform the development and implementation a long term neighbourhood strategy to address issues related to antisocial behaviour and illegal drug use.

The task force would include our Ward Councillor, representatives from the Old East Village BIA, Old East Village Community Association, London Police Services, neighbourhood social services and London Cares.

5. The initiative would be supported by and would report to, the CAPS Committee.

As you are aware, the Old East Village BIA supports ALL efforts to reduce illegal and anti-social behaviour in our city, our business communities, and our neighbourhoods. In every area of our city, neighbourhoods and business corridors are potential targets for illegal activities and we must work collaboratively to develop the most effective tools to counter this unacceptable conduct wherever it occurs. London' commercial corridors and neighbourhoods need a comprehensive toolkit to deal with inappropriate behaviour and with criminal activity. We can begin to create it in the Old East Village.

At Monday's CAPS Committee meeting members will be discussing the value and appropriateness of putting "eyes" on 300 square feet of our city. Will this action alone eliminate unwanted assembly or illegal behaviour? This is the question.

We believe that in order for substantive change to occur at this location, there are many partners that must come to the table and multiple actions that must be taken. Cameras alone, while able to "watch" and create a recording of the activities in the area will not, indeed, cannot prevent persons from entering the alley or affect their personal choices or actions once there.

The walkway from the City owned parking lot to the business corridor on Dundas Street **should** be open, accessible and safe for area residents and shoppers. Further, it is critical for all Londoners that we do not relinquish our public spaces and our accessibility to where we live and shop to a few. What happens in this small space and how we respond says a great deal about how we truly value our neighbourhoods and ourselves.

Since the BIA last presented to Council the list of positive and exciting new developments, projects and people coming to the Old East Village has increased.

If you've read this month's edition of Business London you will be up to date on the continued success of the Western Fair Farmer's Market and the businesses that have expanded to take up permanent residence in our growing business community. As well, our 2013 target for increased investment in the Old East Village was met in April (180 million dollars) and our culture district continues to grow. Our community is positive, progressive and determined.

An alleyway will not define the values, quality of life or who we are in the Old East Village. It is 300 hundred square feet that needs a solution. The solution is multi-faceted and requires a coordinated response. We will be happy do our part.

Regards,



Ken Keane,

Chair,

Old East Village BIA