

January 24, 2008

To LACAC Chair, Art French:

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak and address the Committee with the concerns of the citizens of the Durand Neighbourhood where St. Mark's is situated.

I am Sarah Matthews. I reside in the Durand neighbourhood with my family. I am lawyer and President of the Durand Neighbourhood Association.

As you are aware, it is currently zoned as A – Conservation, Open Space, Park and Recreation.

The City purchased the property in 1994 for \$425,000 from parkland funds to conserve the church and to provide open space for the Durand neighbourhood.

The structure was designated as a heritage site in 1995.

The DNA supports the adaptive reuse of St. Mark's AND the preservation of the green space.

The DNA does not support the rezoning proposal to D3 – Downtown Mixed Use - because it will undoubtedly compromise, if not destroy, the existing structure and, most importantly, take away a park that was purchased for the Durand residents in 1994.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Has the City had discussions with any prospective purchasers?

If so, what is the nature of those discussions?

Is the Draft By-Law "Respecting the Lands Located at 130 Bay Street South" precipitated by those discussions?

- (2) Are you aware of any prospective buyers or interested parties?

If so, what are their proposals or intentions with the property?

- (3) What are the reasons for the heritage designation?

Is the open space or green space covered in that designation?

- (4) Al Fletcher's Memorandum to this Committee dated December 10th, 2007, last paragraph, page 1, reminds this Committee that this "property was acquired in 1994 to conserve the church and to provide for open space in the Durand Neighbourhood."

What has changed since 1994 to alter the focus of the City to sell the property?

- (5) Notwithstanding the objections of the DNA, and the property is sold, Al Fletcher's Memorandum to this Committee dated December 10th, 2007, states:

"...given the property was acquired for parks purposes though parkland funds, upon sale of the property, all funds shall be transferred to the appropriate parkland fund."

The DNA and community wants the assurance from the City that the funds transferred to the parkland fund will be reinvested to create parkland in the Durand neighbourhood given the dearth of existing parkland.