

PG 11.5.9



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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

2012 MAR -5 P 10:01

March 4, 2012

Marilyn Toft
12th Floor
100 Queen Street East
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Re: Planning and Growth Committee, Meeting #11 PG 11.5 – Heritage Conservation Districts
in Toronto

Dear Ms. Toft:

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) is an Association of residents in the St Lawrence area of the City of Toronto and is incorporated as a non-profit Corporation; the SLNA has served the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and its 25,000 - 30,000 residents since 1982. The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood includes, First Parliament Site, Old Town of York, and the original ten blocks.

We applaud the City staff and the recommendation from the Planning and Growth Committee and fully support the Procedures, Policies and Terms of Reference Report.

We also want to be considered first in order of priority for the following reasons:

- Our Councillor has assured us that sufficient funds are available through section 37 funds;
- In 2005 we worked with the City and Council to create the St. Lawrence Urban Design Guidelines and were told that the natural progression would be to then have this area designated as a Heritage Conservation District;
- Our HCD committee has been working since 2006 and would be happy to act as administrators for the study;
- We have interviewed six preservation architects, several of whom are interested in bidding on the Study;
- We have George Brown College students and faculty ready to conduct research and to prepare the inventory.

Most of all we are desperate to have this study commence, as we continually experience pressure from developers on a regular basis. Blocks of land are purchased and development applications are submitted that have no coherence and do not respond to the significant heritage remnants that remain. No serious consideration is given to preservation. Development applications are considered as 'spot zoning' rather than within a framework of contextual redevelopment. We are entering into yet another OMB hearing as we are not able to amicably decide on sustainable growth for this area. These hearings are both frustrating and costly for everyone involved (City, SLNA and the developers). Completion of a Heritage Conservation District Study will serve to clarify the parameters providing for sustainable growth.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Kavanagh
President SLNA

Debra Corey
Chair, Development Committee

Copy. Willie Macrae. City Planning
Scott Barrett, Heritage Preservation Services
Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28
SLNA Development Committee and Board