

# Pam McConnell



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7 November 2012

**Re: ED18.10 – Re-purchase Option – Cathedral Church of St. James Clock Mechanism**

To the Chair and Members of the Economic Development Committee:

I have been very supportive of Culture staff's attempts to secure the clock mechanism from St. James Cathedral, which is situated in the heart of our historic Old Town precinct. This clock mechanism, which is over 137 years old, is an important part of Toronto's heritage, and there is keen interest in having it available for public display and education. Culture staff worked incredibly hard since May, and I know that everyone was disappointed when it seemed that the City of Toronto would be unable to take possession.

However, there have been new developments that make it possible for the City to both obtain the mechanism and to eventually restore and display it.

Facilities Management has storage space available, and they are able to accommodate it for 2 to 3 years. At that time, it will be relocated to a suitable space for display at Old City Hall.

There is no urgent need for funds to be committed for restoration, at this time. In fact, I understand that there may be a group of clock enthusiasts who are willing, and have the skills, to restore the St. James clock mechanism. If this came to pass, it will offer a rare opportunity for school groups, Torontonians, and visitors to observe this specialized work and to learn about Toronto's history. Once restoration is complete, it will become a permanent exhibit in the City of Toronto Museum.

Finally, I have been assured that the funds for packing and transportation of the clock mechanism can be accommodated in the current operating budget.

To secure this significant heritage asset, I ask that the Committee adopt the following amendment to ED18.10:

*Council direct the Executive Director of Facilities Management to exercise the option to purchase The Cathedral Church of St. James Clock Mechanism from David Abernethy and secure it in existing storage for future use in a City of Toronto Museum. Funds to come from existing operating budgets and are subject to a reasonable negotiated cost.*

I'm sure that you will agree that the City must seize this rare opportunity to capture a wonderful piece of our past as a legacy for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam McConnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Pam McConnell