Corktown Residents & Business Association 351 Queen Street East P.O Box 82522 Toronto, ON M5A 1T8



Toronto City Council
Executive Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
Attn: Rosalind Dyers, Administrator

EX3.4.77

February 27, 2015

Re: Proposed Budget and Staffing Cuts to Heritage Preservation Services

Dear Mayor Tory and members of Toronto's Executive Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Corktown Residents & Business Association (CRBA). It has come to our attention that you are considering a recommendation to decrease the budget to the City Planning department for Heritage Services.

The CRBA is strongly against this planned budget cut and the associated staff cuts. Even at the current staffing and budget levels, Heritage Preservation Services are severely constrained and this will inevitably lead to the deterioration of the heritage fabric of Toronto.

Corktown is one of the oldest and diverse neighbourhoods of the City. The CRBA has recently undertaken studies of our neighbourhood's heritage as groundwork for establishing one or more Heritage Conservation Districts within our boundaries. With the proposed budget and staffing cuts, it is likely that Corktown will instead lose some of our historic character and buildings to low quality and historically insensitive developments, such as happened with the Stollerys building at Yonge and Bloor, before an HCD can be established and before additional buildings can be added to the Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Rather than cutting Heritage Preservation Services, we would like to see its funding and staffing increased so that HPS has the capacity to undertake the work it has been tasked with.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Sandra Iskandar
President, Corktown Residents & Business Association
www.Corktown.ca | info@corktown.ca | @CorktownTO

cc: Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28
Alex Teixeira, Planner, City of Toronto
Dean Maher, Chair, Toronto East York Preservation Board