

ossington community association

working for the ossington strip—dundas bend neighbourhood and business districts

February 27, 2015

ossingtoncommunity.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and other Members of the Executive Committee:

I write in my capacity as President of the Ossington Community Association¹ (OCA) concerning the Budget Committee recommendations tabled in EX3.4.

It is our understanding that the Budget Committee has recommended eliminating 8 planning and heritage staff slated to work on crucially needed Area Studies and Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs). It is also our understanding that the entire budget for HCD studies is proposed to be reduced from 1m to 500K---the price of a single condominium unit in Toronto.

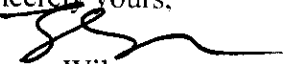
The proposed cuts are distressing in the extreme. It is a well-known and frequently bemoaned fact that City Planning is sorely understaffed---so understaffed that it is unable to perform, in a timely fashion, the Area Studies and HCD Studies that operate to ensure that the distinctive and world-renowned character of Toronto's special neighbourhoods and business districts is preserved for present and future generations.

Every month of delay undermines the fabric of our City---injures, destroys, what makes it special---as happened just last month with the wanton destruction of Stollery's.

In our own area, we are very concerned that cutting these positions will prevent the timely carrying out of the West Queen West HCD study, which Planning and Growth Management just prioritized. WQW is acknowledged to be one of the most important pieces of Toronto's culture and heritage landscape: it was just voted (by Vogue magazine) the second coolest neighbourhood in the world, and (along with Ossington Avenue) was recently written up in a 'Four Square Blocks' piece in the New York Times. But WQW is under serious threat from inappropriate development. We need the study now, not later, to protect and preserve the heritage and character of the area.

Few things are more important to our City than good planning and appreciation and preservation of our heritage. Please reinstate the 8 planning positions for purposes of our desperately needed Area and HCD studies---the fabric of our City depends on it.

Sincerely yours,



Jessica Wilson

President, Ossington Community Association
416-531-2365

¹ The OCA is an actively engaged organization with a large membership, whose aim is to promote the flourishing of the neighbourhood (Queen to Harrison, Crawford to Dovercourt) and its business districts (the Ossington Strip and the Dundas Bend).

jessica wilson
president