Annex Residents' Association

February 23, 2015

Nancy Martins
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
email: pgmc@toronto.ca

Dear Ms. Martins,

Re: PG2.8 Toronto Heritage Conservation District Study Prioritization

On behalf of the Annex Residents Association, we would like to express our support for City staff to address the backlog of 16 heritage conservation district studies, including two national historic sites. Heritage conservation districts are critical planning tools, and in line with the Ontario Heritage Act, offer protection for invaluable citywide assets.

However, we were dismayed by the timeline being proposed to complete the studies. The staff report looks at development applications from 2009 to 2013. The Annex and other heritage districts to the south, border the Bloor Danforth subway line, a major transportation corridor, which is now prime development land. Two major development proposals for Madison and Huron streets at Bloor have recently come to the Planning Department. Those are in addition to the large-scale proposal at the southwest corner of Bloor and Bathurst. There will be no moratorium on these and other development proposals in our area or any other in the city, and so wise area planning taking into consideration important heritage assets, must keep up with the unprecedented growth of our city. While we are grateful that two new staff positions were added to supervise the studies, we would encourage at least one, if not two temporary positions (one to address the special needs of national historic sites) to clear the backlog.

Given our position, we were shocked to hear that Budget Committee on Friday evening voted to cut positions relating to area planning and heritage conservation districts. We appeal to the Planning and Growth Management Committee to strongly argue against this decision.

Yours sincerely,

David Harrison

David Harrison, Chair
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