TORONTO

COUNCILLOR JOE CRESSY

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Toronto Preservation Board
2nd Floor West Tower
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

 Dear Members of the Toronto Preservation Board:

 Re: Agenda Item 2.7 Heritage Conservation District Prioritization

I would like to reaffirm my ongoing support for Heritage Conservation Districts. Heritage conservation districts are incredibly important tools for our communities to preserve their unique history and character.

I am delighted that Kensington Market is included in the proposed list of districts to be studied this year. This unique community is a valuable part of Toronto that is facing increasing development threats. I urge you to approve the inclusion of Kensington Market in this year's study.

However, I am disappointed that the West Annex and Harbord Village are not included as priority districts this year, or in the next two years. I understand the importance of protecting heritage across the city, and I am encouraged that the city is increasing the number of districts being studied each year from three to five in order to expedite this process.

The speed of intensification in Ward 20 is intense, and the historical, residential neighbourhoods in the downtown core need to be protected. I am committed to getting these projects done as soon as possible. However, the recommendations in the report do not give any assurance as to when we can expect these studies to be started, let alone finished.

I would like to request additional information from Staff, that provides a clearer sense of when the other prioritized areas will be completed - specifically, a timeline for all outstanding prioritized Districts not scheduled for 2015 and 2016. Additionally, it would also be helpful for further options to be explored for expediting studies in the remaining Districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Cressy
City Councillor
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina