Dear Member of Council,

On behalf of the Leslieville Historical Society, I would like to thank Council in advance for supporting the values of our society and community for preserving valuable place-making and community building heritage through its request to the Director of Community Planning, Toronto and East York District..."to secure the reconstruction of the façade of 887 Queen Street East [with original building material] through Site Plan Approval as part of the development's architectural details and materials."

In our view, this added recommendation brings the project into greater compliance with recently approved area-specific policies and the Leslieville Urban Design Guidelines which prescribe that "...block and lot patterns, built form and street character should be maintained and enhanced to support the future vision of Queen Street East in Leslieville " and that "...qualitative cultural heritage elements such as sense-of-place and character should be maintained and enhanced to add to the character of Leslieville...." We strongly believe that above all preserving the original façade preserves the scale and historical authenticity that drive Leslieville's revival and livability.

Although we acknowledge that that development is not a fait accompli and we await with anticipation the most recent iteration of the design of this very positive development by Harhay Development (875 Queen Lofts Inc.), the incorporation of our concerns into the Planning Report slated for a Toronto and East York Community Council on January 19th is a major milestone.

Chris Harhay should be praised for his enlightened open-mindedness and flexibility and I sincerely hope and believe this development will be a huge success. This project when completed now has the attributes that strengthen the community-sensitive, place-making urban design, a respect for heritage as well as a concern for the most vulnerable in our society, as expressed through the Red Door Shelter.

Councillor Paula Fletcher, as always, has been extremely instrumental to these ends and as always has brought out the best in our community and along with the very competent staff in her office are a big engine for positive change in this community. We thank them for their hard work to this point.

Respectfully,
Ted Radlak
Secretary
Leslieville Historical Society

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Shiralee Hudson-Hill
Matt Hill
Campaign to Save 887 Queen Street East (the Burgess Building)