

North York Community Preservation Panel

September 7, 2017

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins

RE: PG22.5 Inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register - Midtown in Focus - Phase 01: Main Street Properties (Ward 16, 22, 25, 26)

Dear Chair Councillor David Shiner and Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee,

This is to express our strong support for the recommended listing of the 258 properties with potential cultural heritage value or interest located on main streets (Yonge, Mount Pleasant, Bayview, and Eglinton) in the Yonge-Eglinton Growth Centre, on the City of Toronto Heritage Register.

The "main street" commercial areas in the Yonge-Eglinton Growth Centre and adjacent areas are under enormous pressure for re-development. Listing in this manner will prevent "as of right" demolition of commercial properties without prior assessment of the cultural heritage values of the property.

Residents across Toronto have been outraged by as of right demolitions of commercial properties having obvious cultural heritage value and interest, such as occurred with the BMO Building at 2444 Yonge Street in January, 2017. This change will ensure that properties such as this, would undergo assessment as to whether or not they deserve to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, and their heritage attributes retained and conserved.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel
Chair

c.c. Councillors Carmichael Greb, Matlow, Robinson and Burnside
Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
Mary Macdonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services
Joe Nanos, Director, Community Planning, North York District
Gregg Lintern, Director, Community Planning, Toronto and East York District