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April 23, 2019

General Government and Licensing Committee
10th Floor West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Julie Lavertu

ggcl@toronto.ca

Re: GL4. 7 – Redevelopment of North Market

Dear Committee Members:

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), incorporated in 1982, represents approximately 35,000 residents in the area bounded by Yonge Street, Parliament Street, Queen Street East and the railway tracks. We regularly work with City staff, residents, developers and property owners to ensure that proposed developments represent good planning and enhance our neighbourhood. The St. Lawrence Market Precinct is in our neighbourhood and we have been members of the working group (1997) and now St. Lawrence Market Precinct Advisory Committee (SLMPAC) since its inception.

The SLNA supports the Staff recommendation that the North Market redevelopment total project cost be increased by \$13.959 million. We have been working with the City Councillor(s) staff and other stakeholders since the 1990s to see this project off the ground. It is unfortunate that the awarded contract had to be rescinded and appreciate the Staff's extraordinary efforts in getting this turned around and back on track and preparing the current contract to be awarded.

It seems that along the way we have encountered several glitches and some have been very exciting. One of the requirements of the site plan application was to conduct an archaeological assessment. We knew that as the three trenches were dug up while the existing market still stood that if we found significant artifacts that we would need to conduct a full archaeological dig as required under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Indeed, this is where it uncovered the lateral brick and stone drains as we affectionately call the porcupine drain. This comes as no surprise as this is within the Town of York and the location of one of Canada's earliest commercial markets.

Between these two significant events the clock stopped for approximately three years. As with many projects, delays such as these will amount to increased costs over time and with additional pressures such as tariffs and pricing volatility the pricing has nowhere to go but up.

There is no group more frustrated to see these delays, there is also no group more excited to see that we can actually get construction shovels in the ground. It has been a long journey for this market that started over two hundred years ago. We have seen all sorts of variations from outdoor market to a wooden structure to the last iteration of a utilitarian single-story concrete slab.

While all this activity has been underway SLMPAC has been active working with City staff on a business plan to ensure this building and the Precinct is sustainable. We have a living strategic planning document which includes a vision, mission and core values. This building will bring a high level of positive exposure for the City and present significant opportunities for accessing diverse new communities and creating memorable experiences.

Toronto is recognized around the world as a city with an emerging food scene. The St. Lawrence Market is recognized by National Geographic as the world's best market. This building and the programming attached to it will continue to attract, foodies, chefs and health enthusiasts. This building will be the great connector of old and new and build on the reputation of being a destination for the citizens of Toronto and from around the world.

Now the opportunity is here is build a market that will be another jewel for the City. This structure will link the National Historic Site, the St. Lawrence Hall, the South Market and the public placemaking in the Precinct. After years of striking a working group, conducting an international design competition, conducting a full archeological dig, demolishing the 1968 utilitarian market, erecting construction hoarding, erecting a temporary market the time is here to start construction. We support the Staff recommendation.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Kavanagh
Past President SLNA
SLMPAC Advisory Member

cc. Councillor Wong-Tam
Daniel Picheca, Acting Manager, St. Lawrence Market Complex
SLNA Board of Directors