

TE20.11.1



November 20, 2020

Mayor John Tory and
Members Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

cc: Mary Macdonald, Acting Director Heritage Planning Mary.MacDonald@toronto.ca
Councillor Mike Layton councillor_layton@toronto.ca

Via email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

RE: November 25, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.TE20.11, Demolition of a Property Designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 33 Avenue Road (Ward 11)

Dear Mayor Tory and Council members,

We are writing to request an amendment to the above noted report that would be more specific about exploring a possible future for the landmark round windows in this property, which are important heritage attributes.

ACO Toronto has a long-established interest in the conservation of York Square. We wrote to Toronto Preservation Board to refuse the application for demolition. In 2012, we brought York Square to the attention of the City of Toronto as being worthy of designation and provided extensive materials to support the designation. The designation report prepared by the city staff in 2013 is excellent, laying out carefully the significance of the project to the history of Toronto and the rest of the world.

We are disappointed that Toronto East York Community Council has voted to accept demolition, but are pleased to see conditions added that will prevent immediate clearing of the property before a rezoning and redevelopment plan that includes commemoration can be approved.

As part of the consideration of commemoration, we are hoping that a specific reference can be made by Council to request that the developer, in consultation with the City staff, the community and ACO Toronto, explore incorporation of some or all of the landmark round windows that are currently along the street face and the courtyard into a public art project on the property, or in a new park planned for Yorkville or another site. These windows are the signature for the 1968 project, introduced by architects Diamond and Myers to create a memorable image, and indeed it is what people remember the most about the development.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Zambri,
President, ACO Toronto

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