

From: [Swansea Historical Society](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Councillor Holyday](#); [Councillor Perks](#)
Subject: Council Item 2020.MM27.12 -- Toronto's Heritage Review Process
Date: December 14, 2020 7:31:14 PM

Re: Item 2020.MM27.12 for City of Toronto Council Meeting on December 16, 2020. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.MM27.12>), *Planning Application Screening and the Heritage Review Process - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Mayor John Tory*

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to conduct a review of heritage screening and evaluation within the context of all planning applications to ensure the early identification of properties with cultural heritage value or interest and timely interim protection while a property is undergoing consideration for heritage designation.

The tragic demolition of the beautiful historic house at 98 Superior Avenue in Mimico occurred on Monday, November 30, 2020, just hours before the property was to be reviewed for heritage designation by the Toronto Preservation Board. The owner/contractor was able to use a loophole in the City's heritage-review process and planning processes to apply for and receive a legal demolition permit before the Preservation Board meeting could be held.

I am writing on behalf of the Swansea Historical Society, the Etobicoke Historical Society, and the heritage community in general, in support of motion 2020.MM27.12, as put forward to Council by Ward 3 Councillor Grimes. I believe the City needs to review its internal processes to ensure that a property undergoing consideration for heritage evaluation can not be threatened by individuals who, unfortunately, know how to use weaknesses in the planning system to their advantage.

We, in Toronto, have already lost far too much of our built heritage, which we hold in trust for future generations. I sincerely hope that you will support this motion, and City Council will pass the motion, as a step to help us better protect Toronto's built heritage in the future.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Robert Roden
President, Swansea Historical Society
Past-President, Etobicoke Historical Society
Current resident of Ward 2
Former long-time resident of Ward 4