



December 15, 2020

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Marilyn Toft

RE: MM27.12 Planning Application Screening and the Heritage Review Process

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of City Council,

This is to indicate the strong support of the Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations (FoNTRA) for the Motion made by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Mayor John Tory, which 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 Motion has been brought forward subsequent to the unfortunate demolition of a potential heritage property, in an effort clearly intended to thwart the City's heritage approval process. The ability of the City to preserve its cultural heritage may be further hindered in future upon implementation of Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choice Act, which amends the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA), and the Planning Act. These legislative changes will have significant impacts to heritage conservation (identification, notification, application processes, timelines and protection) including removing Council's final authority for Part IV heritage designations.

Heritage preservation requires a comprehensive up to date heritage inventory of listed and designated properties. The city-wide Heritage Survey begun in 2019 would provide Heritage Planning with the necessary tools to do their work, and acceleration of this initiative should be considered in the 2021 Budget process. A promising approach, that is demonstrated elsewhere on this Council meeting agenda, is the use of multiple listings of properties having similar character. Also applications for Committee of Adjustment should receive heritage screening, not just those already listed or designated.

Such proactive work will hopefully prevent "easy" demolitions in the future, and enable the City to meet the new Provincial planning deadlines.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

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Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

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[REDACTED]
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Cc: Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director
Mary MacDonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.