

November 15, 2020

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

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel to express our support 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.

We have witnessed repeated events, most recently with the demolition of a heritage-relevant property at 98 Superior Avenue, where heritage preservation efforts were circumvented without allowing due process to proceed.

Timely identification and protection of properties with valid heritage value is a critical component of city building.

There is ample evidence from many other successful renovation and development projects in our City: with good will and good planning, property owners are able to improve their properties in a timely way, while respecting the intent of the Ontario Heritage Act. Addressing heritage early on in every development application will promote this.

This motion will lead to timely resolution of heritage matters, without adding red tape or interfering with reasonable development efforts.

We urge you to vote in favour of this motion at Council.

Sincerely,  
Paul Cordingley  
On behalf of  
Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel