

April 5, 2021

Mayor John Tory and  
Members Toronto City Council  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Via email: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca). cc: [councillor\\_matlow@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_matlow@toronto.ca)



**RE: MM31.11, Preserving the Past, and Protecting the Future of Little Jamaica**

Dear Mayor Tory and Council members,

ACO Toronto is writing to express our support of MM31.11, *Preserving the Past, and Protecting the Future of Little Jamaica*, moved by Councillor Josh Matlow on April 7, 2021. Based on our understanding of the Ontario Heritage Act, we believe there is potential to permit the designation of Little Jamaica properties as per at least five of the nine criteria listed for designation under [Part IV, criteria for determining cultural heritage value](#):

Historical or Associative Value

1. Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community;
2. Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture;

Contextual Value

3. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area
4. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings
5. Is a landmark.

In addition to these, the [Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto: Policies, Procedures and Terms of Reference's](#) criteria for determination of cultural heritage within an HCD includes:

Social Value or Community Value

6. It yields information that contributes to the understanding of, supports, or maintains a community, culture or identity within the district.

With the potential for this to be applied to multiple properties within the community, there is then a case for Little Jamaica to meet the characterization as per The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture's [Guide to District Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act](#):

- A concentration of heritage buildings, sites, structures; designed landscapes, natural landscapes that are linked by aesthetic, historical and socio-cultural contexts or use.

This motion will allow the City of Toronto to conduct a comprehensive heritage survey which we encourage as an essential next step. In addition to recognizing and protecting the cultural heritage value of Little Jamaica, we believe this is an opportunity to expand, progress, and diversify our definition of and processes for heritage conservation of cultural places and spaces in Toronto.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Zambri,  
President, ACO Toronto

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