

Michael Jones Delegation

I'm Michael Jones a resident of Burlington for over 40 years, I grew up in Ward 6 and chose to purchase a home in Ward 2 – 14 years ago. I am also an owner of a rental dwelling in Ward 2. I had been involved with Save our Waterfront and didn't realize years later I would be here to speak to save our downtown and our city. I attended last night meeting beginning to end and that's why I am here today. Because I too have serious issues and concerns with the proposed development south of Ghent.

Firstly issue terminology

As defined:

pre-cinct:

- a district of a city or town as defined for police purposes.
- the area within the walls or perceived boundaries of a particular building or place.

In comparison to

Neighbourhoods are often social communities with considerable face-to-face interaction among members.

Last night it was great to witness people on behalf of their communities and neighbourhoods speaking up. I feel as citizens of Burlington we live in neighbourhoods not precincts

I have a couple issues.

First both my homes are on Holtby Avenue and will be literally in the shadows of these monstrosities of towers. I enjoy the sun coming in my front window each morning, I currently watch the tower at Caroline and Elizabeth being built and disappointed at the potential of a wall being built along Brant. You propose there will be a 45 degree street scape facing Brant but a straight wall on the backside. Which was a point brought up by Mr Ng last night. And shown in the city presentation. These changes are not just adding on a few stories because if you go 12 what is 17, it impacts us all. In comparison my neighbor built a large wooden fence which is allowed but my vegetable garden no

longer grows You are building a Brant Street Wall for us on the backside of the buildings.

Also as an environmentalist and to yesterday's delegation- Mike the planners point you have a direct impact on migratory birds, as we are in a flight path to the RBG conservation area too.

Your decision will be impacting my home and my rental property and my neighbours in my neighbourhood.

As for our traffic, I am commuter in an electric car to Mississauga each day. I sit on the QEW or New street, ask Marianne about my Friday traffic post to her Facebook asking when I get to go home and see my family, thank you Council for listening to the people and reversing the new street diet.

The intensification is going to bring more people more cars, and not in a 100 years but now! Because Grimsby, Beamsville and Niagara are also growing, the cars bypassing the QEW are coming straight through downtown. I used WAZE phone app to find the most efficient fastest way home, to avoid new street, sadly bringing me past schools daily, risking other children so I can pick up my child on time. Ideally a wider road should be built straight through the lobby of City hall to connect to Elgin street. Poor planning to end James street at a T intersection. So now I am faced with those people like me just wanting to go home flying through my neighbourhood. Which they currently do, and you are well aware of this increase as the City has been very busy building speed bumps throughout my neighbourhood. Except on my street where we need it on Holtby and Crosby and Martha. All bypass streets of the James Brant block, where the towers you seem to want is also going.

I am Father of a 4 year old. I am here to protect her and speak on her behalf. Increased intensification means more cars. All of our sidewalks are built directly adjacent to the road. New street passed Holtby, James street and entire length of Caroline aren't 10 metres wide they are less than 1.5 feet and no room for roadway expansion. On my street to make matters worse our planners only put 1 sidewalk on Holtby, so my daughter has to cross the road to walk or play. We are perilously close to having an accident, we remember the child killed on Evans road and the child killed in Toronto on Lakeshore because the sidewalk was adjacent to the road. I don't want anyone in my neighbourhood to be faced with the death of their child because we have not planned properly for our neighborhoods. I was almost hit walking my dog on James street as a car came onto the sidewalk, I have seen cars upside down at Martha because they

think it's a race course.. great design for Michael Schumacher but not mini vans...I ask you all when your kids were learning to ride a bike did you witness your children swerve one way or the other because they saw something shiny they were interested in, our roads and sidewalk design means, 1 wrong swerve and you are on the road. And you are seriously hurt or worse dead.

Lastly, I think we are here with really upset people and the formation of city action groups such as Engaged citizens of Burlington because of poor communication by our elected officials.

I live in the area that received notices about the Mobility Hub, I attended 0 meetings, my neighbours attended 0 meetings, we have children to put to bed and work to be at. Yesterday I was at work by the airport for 8 am and here until 10:30, so attending extra meetings is not high on my to do list.

But I have went to all of your WARD News, Facebook, and twitter accounts.

This proposal for downtown is not being communicated effectively if at all by our members of Council, only in the 11th hour. I'm sorry Councillor Taylor but you have a posting about city rinks closing early this year and then I realized it is last years notice. Lancaster made no mention of it in her December 2017 Ward news.

A friend of mine who is working today, Lisa Laporte reached out to Councilor Craven to express her concerns over this intensification proposal, I am paraphrasing but the response she got was, this is the way it's going to go. She was not informed that there was a meeting last night or today. She responded to me can he say that, isn't he supposed to thank me for my feedback and input.

As a positive, You all have mentioned the playground revitalization project- as a side note, don't make slides dark colours for those of us who still have to go down them, they hurt in the summer.

As a member of the community it is my responsibility to learn and find out what is happening in my city but it is your duty to inform all your constituents. A post on a Tuesday afternoon mentioning Grow Bold does not tell the average person, your downtown is going to be a highrise haven. You are planning the biggest changes to Burlington in decades, perhaps doing the old fashioned knocking on peoples doors, similar to the action taken when elections are taking place. And elections are around the corner. I speak regularly with Robert my local Jehovah witness, I'll open the door to any councilor or Mayor wishing to discuss the future of this great mid size city.

Lastly I can't stand false diagrams and presentations..artist renderings never appear as shown. Your picture last night had 3 sailboats sailing straight into the pier. You say it will be 100 years, it will still be a bad plan in 100 years and as I understand it there are 11 applications just for downtown already proposed. I don't think it's a 100 year plan. AS I walk today I saw a new sign just put up for at Martha and James, this 100 year statement is misleading.

Last night, I watched the presentation and the talk about the terrible 90's well I also seen pictures of the downtown hustling in years past, my grandparents stories of the Brant Inn.. So to base all your decision on the 90's is a bit naïve. People complain of only 1 grocery store, my uncle was the manager of the IGA and where my sister had her first job is now the sight of the Baxter . Picture omitted last night of a planning decision...A few years ago, nobody was bragging about the Baxter and noise issues. Unique buildings from years past are celebrated and cherished by those who visit and those who live in their neighbourhood.

The diagram shown is a picture from 5 kilometres out from the lake, well we don't live on the lake, we live in the neighbourhood and community of downtown.

Scrap this plan, I respect the work put in by city staff and Council but sometimes we need to start back at the beginning.

Best regards,

Michael Jones

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