

July 15, 2018

Mayor Goldring, Councillor Craven, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Dennison, Councillor Sharman,

Councillor Lancaster & Councillor Meed-Ward

426 Brant St

Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

Dear Mayor & Councillors of the City of Burlington,

I am writing to you today in a plea to stop the downtown development of 401-413 Brant St., 2002 and 2012 James St., & 444-450 John St. This letter is not just about stopping the development, it is about keeping the integrity and history of the downtown core, and keeping the local businesses thriving.

The development of this 22 storey residential building will take out multiple local businesses that make Downtown Burlington unique and special. Kelly's Bake Shoppe brings in a plethora of business every single day to downtown and makes downtown a hotspot. It is a business that many people who have food allergies depend on because of their specialty. People who are vegan are not the only customers that walk through those doors, it is also a local hotspot for those who are celiac, gluten sensitive, lactose intolerant or have nut allergies that are life threatening. My sister is gluten free and lactose intolerant (not by choice) and she could never find a restaurant or bakery that would allow her to indulge in foods that she has missed out on since being diagnosed. I am not just writing about this because it affects me and my family but it affects Burlington and the community of people who have to eat a specific way whether it is by choice or because of health issues. These locals and out of town people go there every day or every week to be able to indulge in the delicious foods at Kelly's. They have received recognition from all over the world and put Burlington on the map as a place to go for exceptional food. Apart from Kelly's Bake Shoppe, there are over 20 other local businesses that would have already or will have to close down because of this development. They will not be able to afford the high rent of downtown once those developments are built and the vibe of downtown Burlington which is a relaxed, local, friendly community will be forgotten. These buildings that are included in this development proposal have been there since 1922. Downtown Burlington has a history

that some cities do not have because we have kept the integrity of downtown with the old buildings that may have been renovated but never lost the look of a quaint downtown. The buildings are historical locations that do not deserve to be torn down for more developments.

I understand that Burlington is developing and we need to be able to grow but there is already three developments taking place in the downtown area on Locust St, Caroline St, and Lakeshore Rd. As well as the development proposal that is in the works for 421, 425, 427, 429 & 431 Brant St which is right across the street from the development that I am writing about today. With the one side of James St becoming a high rise building, that will add more congestion to downtown Burlington, but if the development of 401-413 Brant St., 2002 and 2012 James St., & 444-450 John St goes into effect, downtown will become intensified by the construction which will effect the local citizens who are commuters and the local citizens who walk the downtown everyday.

I know that change will always happen but the importance of keeping the integrity of downtown is a significant issue that must be addressed. Downtown is unique, it is quaint, and a key feature of Burlington as a whole. It has shops that are all one of a kind, and that is what makes downtown Burlington one of a kind. With the development of this high rise, it will be breaking the downtown into a problematic, generic way.

I am asking that you consider the people who live downtown and the many businesses that you are not allowing to be there because you want to build this high rise. Maybe more people will be coming in to this area, but Brant St is a place that does not need to be busier than it already is. These established local businesses should not have to move. Construction is going to kill downtown thus creating multitudes of issues for owners and residents of Burlington. What will happen to the Sound of Music Festival, Ribfest, or the Moon in June Race? These and many other events depend on downtown Burlington to be successful.

I want to thank you all very much for taking the time to read and consider what I am saying. I am 23 years old and have lived in downtown Burlington for my entire life. I love everything about Burlington and would like to be able to stay here to continue to build my life. I am seriously asking you to take this letter into consideration before making the final decision about this development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Natalie D'Addario

Long time resident of Downtown Burlington.