

Amenda Bolger
905 808 4320 albolgere@gmail.com

Good evening to the members of Council, staff and fellow residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak concerning the proposed plan and zoning by-law amendments for 401-413 Brant Street 444, 448 & 450 John Street, and 2002 & 2012 James Street (PB-67-18)).

I'm sure you've already heard much of what I have to say but felt it necessary to be here tonight and share my thoughts. Especially as one councilor commented last week, he was surprised at the number of people in attendance regarding a different proposal, but none had taken the opportunity to speak, so here I am.

I hope I'm heard.

As a resident for nearly 40 years, I've seen significant transformation throughout Burlington and appreciate change through redevelopment is inevitable. However, how we go about changing the landscape of our city is crucial to preserving the charm and atmosphere of Burlington.

The need for more family housing is real but as someone who grew up in south-east Burlington my childhood memories of pool parties and volleyball games in our backyard will be vastly different compared to the children raised in a 17 story condo tower. Are small units located on already busy streets indeed family focused? I would say not.

Rather than coming here today voicing the "Not in my backyard" view refusing change, I urge council to consider and request proposals to redevelop other areas of the city, possibly my neighbourhood, the Mountainside area. This area offers ample space and opportunities to add more family and high-density housing. South-east Burlington is another area that could also benefit from redevelopment. Upgrading and transforming run-down plazas improve those areas while preserving the beauty and appeal of our downtown space.

Many folks like my parents, chose Burlington to raise their family because of the small town feel of our city. Don't future residents deserve a similar experience? And as one of the best cities to live in, shouldn't we be doing everything in our power to preserve the essence of what makes it so?

Please keep the high-rise condos out of our beautiful downtown area maintaining the charm and character that truly make our city special.

Thank you.