

September 11, 2017

Mayor Watson, Jim.Watson@Ottawa.ca
Jan Harder, Chair Planning Committee, Jan.Harder@Ottawa.ca

Re: OUR LADY'S SCHOOL, DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Dear Mayor Watson and Councillor Harder

In the September 19th, 2013, Staff Report to Planning Committee (RIDEAU-VANIER (12) Ref N°: ACS2013-PAI-PGM-0201), APPLICATION TO DEMOLISH 207-209 MURRAY STREET AND PORTIONS OF THE FORMER OUR LADY'S SCHOOL, 287 CUMBERLAND STREET, AND TO STABILIZE ITS SOUTH AND WEST WALLS, the committee and council approved the recommendation to demolish.

This approval to demolish was conditional on "The receipt of an application under the Ontario Heritage Act for new development on the site within two years of the issuance of the heritage permit for demolition under the Act"

It has now been four years since this demolition was approved and still we see no new development on the site. The building continues to deteriorate, and police resources are needed to attend the site which has become a gathering place for people who are living on the street.

The property is now for sale. (<https://www.royallepage.ca/en/property/ontario/ottawa/287-cumberland-street/6179915/mls1062747/>).

The owner has been given every possible opportunity to deal with its site in a responsible manner and many of the penalties for the ongoing neglect over the past years have been waived.

Thousands of cars pass this site every day and we are constantly being told that it is laughable that the city is unable or unwilling to rid the community of the eyesore that has been created.

Will the City enforce the requirement for development on the site? How can this be accomplished?

What is the effect on the timeframe for new development now that this property is listed for sale?

Sincerely



Liz Bernstein, President
Lowertown Community Association

Cc Sally Coutts, Coordinator Heritage Services, City of Ottawa, Sally.Coutts@ottawa.ca
Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca
Councillor Toby Nussbaum, Chair, Built Heritage Sub-Committee Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca
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