

Lowertown Community Association (LCA)
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March 4th, 2022

Councillor Mathieu Fleury
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Re: Lowertown Community Association Concerns Unheard by the City

Dear Councillor Fleury,

Issues with responses to the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) by City officials are a matter of concern to our members. The LCA has been experiencing challenges in having its perspectives integrated into the City's decision-making processes. LCA members are at times frustrated by the amount of volunteered time and effort being invested with little positive results, despite working with City staff and within the City's own processes.

Key Challenges:

- A futility when it comes to working with the City on files that do not ultimately benefit your community
- A creation of 'red-tape' that is often misdirecting our energies because of pressures to not follow the existing by-laws and other regulatory tools
- A sense that we are consulted, but the results rarely favour members of our community
- A diminished sense of worth and value because Council decision-making does not favour the tax payers of the Ward

Specific Issues:

- Public outreach for consultation on the Official Plan, but recommendations not integrated into the final plan
- City staff do not integrate community perspectives on the future of the Heritage Conservation District Plans
- Planning developments rarely conform to existing zoning or existing planning requirements, causing residents' cynicism to increase, therefore undermining motivation to improve the community fabric
- Replacement of the existing Parkland Dedication By-Law – consultations have been postponed and community review has a limited timeframe
- Community Safety and Well Being
- Transportation is a major issue in Lowertown and Sandy Hill we need trucks removed from this area
- Others to be discussed

Many urban spaces around the world follow more integrated and community-building initiatives that engage community through their own self-leadership. The overall current environment at our City meets the old idiom: “You can’t fight City Hall.” We’d like to get beyond this and the tokenistic approach to community consultation.

We have a vibrant community with volunteers willing to participate, but City demands on local residents to work on their files, with little benefit to the livability of their community, can cause a sense of despair and being defeated. We are seeking positive changes and need your support to facilitate successes.

A meeting with you to discuss the issues would be beneficial and listening to our concerns would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, appearing to be the name 'Sylvie Bigras'.

Sylvie Bigras
Co-President
Lowertown Community Association/Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville

cc. Mayor Watson,