

Allison Hamlin
Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department
And Councillor Mathieu Fleury
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West, 4th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Allison.Hamlin@ottawa.ca

Re: Site Plan Control Application (D07-12-16-0193) to remove the existing parking at the Chateau Laurier Hotel and construct an addition at the rear.

Dear Ms. Hamlin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the site plan control application for an addition to the rear of the Chateau Laurier Hotel. The Lowertown Community Association (LCA) does not support the current proposal and offers the following observations in this regard.

While the massing of the Mackenzie Avenue side of the addition maximizes the amount of accommodation and enables the enclosure of the loading area for the hotel, it also blocks the traditional sight lines north from Rideau Street interfering with the view of Majors Hill Park. To provide some set back from the Mackenzie Street sidewalk, the LCA recommends that there be some reduction in the protrusion of the building at the sidewalk on Mackenzie Avenue and the all loading and unloading should be done from the new underground parking facility rather than on the Mackenzie side of the original hotel structure.

With regard to the use of glass and stone, the LCA feels that there should be more stone incorporated vertically into the design of the structure. This would help break up the monochromic feeling that is created by the sweeping use of glass. The LCA also feels that there should be more variety in the colour and texture in the glass "skin" if it is to be a prominent design feature.

Not everyone sees the Chateau Laurier from its Rideau Street "face". For many in the Lowertown community and those who regularly see the hotel from the Alexandra Bridge, Murray Street, Mackenzie Avenue and Majors Hill Park, their view of the hotel would become that of the proposed steel and glass structure. Even with lowering the height to eight storeys, as has been done in this proposal, the view of most of the original, iconic structure will be lost irreparably. In this sense the proposal takes away the enjoyment that many in the community now experiences and gives it nothing in return.

The LCA recognizes that designing an addition to the existing structure is a challenging task and that receiving even general approval of any design option is unlikely. However, we feel that the current proposal falls short of what can and should be the degree of design excellence appropriate to such an historic site.

Lowertown Community Association
Association communautaire de la BasseVille

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Bernstein

President

Lowertown Community Association