



## *Leaside Property Owners' Association*

Dear Councillor Parker,

We are writing to inform you of our disappointment that the Design Review Panel for 70 Wickstead proceeded despite our clear and persistent objections. On May 4th you received an email from us requesting the process be delayed until the fall. A second request was sent by us on May 11th 2012 to the Chair of the DRP and yourself. Representatives from Leaside Unite and the LPOA attended the DRP to observe, as community input was **not** permitted, and were dismayed to witness the basic approval of the project's design, and that you in particular did not advocate for your community, but merely thanked the committee's work. You did not respond directly to representatives of Leaside Unite or the LPOA regarding our request to postpone the meeting. Secondly, your response to other members of Leaside that requested the DRP be delayed was misguided, based on the outcome of the process. This, coupled with the favourable approval by the DRP lends a false sense of "approval" to the project. We are deeply concerned by these events and the message they project. Given the scope of the proposed development, density, traffic and business impacts must be assessed before design approval is ascertained.

The overwhelming sentiment in the community is that the proposal, which was reportedly the subject of discussions between the developer and both city staff and yourself for several months before any meaningful information was presented to the community, has the support of city staff and your office. It is being pushed through the process with the intention of providing the community with no opportunity to make meaningful comment, save for minor cosmetic changes which are of little or no value to the community affected by this proposal. The Design Review Panel meeting reinforces our concerns that the needs of the community are not being considered. Furthermore, despite our two requests, dated April 30 and May 10<sup>th</sup>, to meet the City's traffic review team, we still have not had any opportunity to meet with them about this project. Again, we request that our input be recorded before their official report is published. Communicating to the residents that you are working with Leaside Unite and the LPOA against this development is misleading considering you did not notify us of the DRP meeting when we discussed the developer's proposal with you on April 30th, and you did not acknowledge our two DRP postponement requests or provided us with a meeting date with the City's traffic review team.

We are still hopeful that, despite your inaction thus far to support the community's objections to the proposal, you can provide leadership in addressing this issue.

Leaside Unite and the LPOA are hosting a community event on this development on **Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7-10 pm in the William Lea Room**. Over the next three weeks, we are looking to you to meet with the developer to have significant and material reductions in the size and density of the project, particularly the flagship store. Additionally, the underground parking is unacceptable as it is dangerous and sets a horrible precedent for the area. The community looks forward to hearing a meaningful update from you at the meeting which will clearly show you are representing the interests of the community.

Sincerely,

Graham Shirley  
Leaside Unite

Brian Athey  
LPOA