

Dear Clerk, City of Guelph,

I am writing to share my thoughts on the proposed 14 storey development at 26-40 Carden St and 27-39 Macdonell. I am a Guelph resident who has lived and worked downtown and continues to frequent the downtown regularly.

I believe that densification of the downtown is important, however I think a 14 storey rental property aimed at students is not the best way forward.

Guelph desperately needs affordable housing for students, seniors, fixed and low income people and families. I would prefer to see housing that attracts more permanent residents AND meets social-economic challenges in order to build a downtown community with residents that care about the area.

Additionally, I do not think that a 14 storey high rise building essentially 'dropped' into the heart of downtown Guelph makes sense. It is not in character with a historic downtown, and will not contribute to what makes downtown Guelph an attractive place to live, work and visit. In fact I think it would detract from the streetscape and increase pressure on services that are already limited (emergency services, parking, waste removal etc).

I think the existing allowance for a 6 storey development is more than adequate in the core of downtown and that a mix of rental, low income, and commercial space is better. High-rise buildings do have their place - which we have already seen with the buildings along Woolwich/Macdonell .

I want to see more people living downtown, I want to see businesses thriving and reasons for Guelph residents to come downtown and I urge the City to not jump at what may seem like a short-term development win at the expense of a more robust longer-term vision for downtown Guelph.

Regards,

Joy Sammy

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Joy Sammy BSc MA PhD (she/her)

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