

Good evening,

My comment is regarding the item for the city council meeting this Tuesday April 8, item 6.1 - *Statutory Public Meeting and Decision Downtown Heights Study Official Plan Amendment, 2025 - 141, Attachment-4 Downtown Building Heights Study Staff Presentation.*

The idea of the city increasing height limitations to condo developments in and around the city of Guelph is an insult to the heritage and history of our wonderful community and city.

When my fiancée and I chose to move to downtown Guelph last year, we did so because of the city's character, ties to its rich history and sightlines from our home. We DID NOT sign up to live and work in a community that wants to resemble a metropolitan city like Toronto; in fact, it is because of the construction of highrises and condominiums in Toronto that we chose not to purchase property there. Why does Guelph want to resemble Toronto? I am truly asking for an answer to this question.

Additionally, the heritage and ties to Guelph's history is evident to everyone when they're walking around the downtown core here. From McCrae House to heritage buildings on Nottingham Street, to the views homes share from near the rail tracks, Guelph has a glorious opportunity to remain a city that stands out from its neighbours in Kitchener/Waterloo and the aforementioned city of Toronto in that it is a place that embraces its history and rich culture as a unique city in Ontario. The two properties being proposed will also take away the Stepping Stone shelter, an important location for those in our community who are displaced and in need.

I implore the city council to reconsider the consequences of inviting a large project such as a 16-storey condominium by Gordon and Nottingham that adds nothing and removes attention and resources that can be diverted to other important infrastructure issues the city must focus its attention on.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Jean-Paul Hernandez