

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



July 26, 2017

Professor Meric S. Gertler,
President, University of Toronto,
27 King's College Circle,
Toronto ON
M5S1A1

Dear President Gertler:

We left our meeting of July 19, hoping the University was sincere in its wish for a more constructive relationship with the community.

Yesterday, we attended the Conservation Review Board's pre-hearing conference on the University of Toronto's appeal of the City of Toronto's heritage designation of 698 Spadina.

At that initial pre-hearing conference, the University of Toronto lawyer opposed granting HVRA Party Status at this time. This position could mean that HVRA is actively excluded from subsequent discussions that will take place between parties on whether the designation appeal and the OMB appeal should be dealt with together, among other matters.

The University's position comes as a shock.

We fail to see what interest is served by the University opposing the granting of party status to the local Residents' Association on a serious planning matter within its boundaries.

First, in the past 20 years, HVRA has never been denied party status at the OMB or in Mediation, from the pre-hearing stage onward. Indeed, we left the telephone conference to attend an OMB hearing where HVRA was accepted, without question, as a party.

Second, the handling of the case, its process, whether mediation is invoked, the transparent sharing of thought and of documents, will have significant impact on our community.

Thirdly, without party status, HVRA would not be eligible to take part in mediation.

HVRA represents a collective interest. The Community has the right to present a case on the appeal of heritage designation, particularly when one element of the challenge involves

assessing cultural importance. HVRA will also argue we should have party status on the University's appeal on 698-702 Spadina.

At last week's meeting, we believed we might work together to mend what has clearly been broken. This is not an auspicious start to what we hoped would be a new beginning.

We have written to the CRB, the Councillor and will be informing our residents.

Respectfully,

Sue Dexter and Carolee Orme

Board, Harbord Village Residents' Association

cc Annex Residents Association, attn. David Harrison

Grange Community Association, attn. Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Ralph Daley

Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization attn. Zoe Newman, Julie Mathien