

PARTICIPANT REVISED STATEMENT

I have been a tenant at the next-door property, [REDACTED] Weber St. West, for seven years. I previously submitted a statement, and this is updated to reflect the current revised proposal, which I have reviewed. I believe the new proposal is even worse than the last one in its impact on the existing neighbourhood and businesses, because of the additional units and fewer parking spots being proposed.

My lease at [REDACTED] Weber Street is up for renewal in July, and I was planning on remaining for at least another 5 years if possible, probably longer. Additionally, my parent company will probably keep an office there indefinitely, if possible, because of the need for mental health services in Kitchener. I am a psychologist, with a busy practice. There are other therapists in our group that use the building (that unfortunately were not included as original participants at the time). The offices on the second floor are all used for psychotherapy and counselling. The 2nd floor has windows on all sides, including those that overlook the planned construction site along the full Southeast side of the building. I have the following objections to any development that is more than 3 stories in height:

(1) LIGHT: I chose the building at least in part because of its heritage aesthetic, and the welcoming ambience it gives to potential clients, and also because of the bright light on the second floor which helps relieve depression and promotes mental wellness. A high rise building next door significantly detracts from the aesthetic of the building but more importantly, will almost completely eliminate the light available to the second floor. The sun will be blocked for the majority of the day that we use the building. This will make the premises dark and not conducive to my clients' (or my) mental health. Many patients' symptoms worsen in a darker milieu. This factor alone is enough for me to question the feasibility of renewing my lease, and this factor is made worse by the present proposal to increase the height of the building even further.

(2) PRIVACY: The proximity and height of the building means that the many units will be either overlooking my building, or be looking straight into the windows of our offices. This means that many will have a birds-eye view of everyone coming and going from my building, and even be able to look into the offices, which significantly detracts from the confidentiality and privacy of my clients. We could add curtains and other features to avoid people being able to see right into the windows on all floors, but this detracts from the advantages of light in our building outlined above, and doesn't prevent observation of the people entering and leaving the building. These privacy concerns are substantial enough to also cause me to consider not renewing my lease.

(3) PARKING AND TRAFFIC: Parking and traffic is already a problem on Weber Street in general. Any traffic going into and out of the new building would make the problem chronically worse, even though the new proposal decreases the number of parking spaces. I think the new proposal will actually make the traffic and parking far worse, since we cannot guarantee that those without parking spaces will use public transport. So now

