

Subject: [External] Letter for Consideration Council Meeting 10/18/21 RE: Cambridge Mill Development

Please see below a letter myself and my business partners have written for your consideration. We request that this letter be added to the agenda and read at the upcoming Council meeting on October 18th. I understand that there will be a lot of delegates so in the interest of time, I have submitted this letter instead.

We are the owners of The Art of Home, a retail shop operating both a storefront and a warehouse in the Downtown Cambridge Core. We are also both residents of West Galt and have great interest in the Cambridge Mill's Hotel and Residences project.

We chose to open The Art of Home in this beautiful town. As our business is nearing 10 years old, we are well aware of the challenges of operating in the Downtown Cambridge area. We need businesses like The Cambridge Mill to continue driving development forward and bringing with that money, customers and tourism to our city. Few local businesses have the capability of developing on this scale so we urge you to work with The Cambridge Mill to get this project approved.

Yes, Cambridge has a quaint image of a European-inspired town but we also have aspirations of being a modern, vibrant and thriving community. Projects like the Cambridge Mill's Hotel and Residence increase tourism, housing, commercial opportunities and help propel us into the future as a great place to live, work and play. We can celebrate our heritage and small town roots while also growing and developing our city.

We understand that part of the project is to beautify the gateway to Downtown Cambridge, which we are sure we can all agree is in need. This project will not only bring residential and hotel units and new waterfront retail, dining and spa features, it also brings improvements to the road infrastructure and will revitalize the underutilized space along our waterfront.

We have seen what can happen when development is stalled in our city. Our store was originally located on lower Main Street and was surrounded by derelict and seemingly abandoned projects and that has taken a major toll on the livelihood of our downtown. Businesses and customers lost faith. Only now have developers returned and we are starting to once again have hope in Main Street. We need to keep that momentum going.

At the end of the day, we need more businesses in the Downtown Cambridge core. We need more people living in the Downtown Cambridge core. Let's make this happen.

Pamela Mangos and Laura McKenna

The Art of Home

www.theartofhome.ca