

Michael Oliveri

From: Kerry Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:32 AM
To: E_Clerks
Subject: [External] RE: March 28th delegation support for the Fashion History Museum

To Mayor Leggit and Cambridge City Council,

I was extremely disappointed to learn through social media of the City of Cambridge's intent to cut funding for the Fashion History Museum. Indeed, the fact that the FHM was located in Cambridge was one of several reasons that my wife and I decided to relocate to Cambridge.

I know the City purchased the building so that the FHM would have a home in Cambridge, and to this point, the city has helped the FHM in covering the costs of rent and taxes. For the City to now turn-coat and pull this financial support previously offered to the FHM is nothing short of an act of sabotage against the museum.

Not only is it a slap in the face to the hard-working staff and volunteers of the museum, but it is also short-sighted on the part of the City Council in terms of the impact the museum has on the community. I know our museum costuming group from another city would come to the museum to enjoy the collections and meet with the curatorial staff in support of the museum.

Additionally, I know the museum, has run and been developing programs for community outreach into seniors' residences and school programs. What an amazing opportunity to support the seniors that have given so much to the community over the years, as well as develop our young people in their education. This is a unique opportunity that the City of Cambridge can offer its citizens as the city continues to grow.

Another example of a wonderful offering the museum has provided to the community are various "teas", where guests can enjoy a themed tea, such as the one held last year themed around the Titanic, and a potential one perhaps coming up in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III

There is also a great opportunity for tourism to the city! Cambridge is only a short drive³ from the GTHA. The FHM is poised to be a centerpiece in the community to bring in economic support for local businesses. As a real-life example referring to my previous experience with another museum coming to Cambridge to visit the museum, we would ensure that our group would visit Len's Mills store, Cambridge Fibres, and a local restaurant before returning home. Also, for the abovementioned Titanic tea, I invited guests to participate with my wife and me as we attended the event.

For all of the above reasons and examples of benefits that the FHM brings to the City of Cambridge, I am expecting the City of Cambridge to seriously reconsider its decision to cut the previously given funding to the Fashion History Museum and reinstate the needed funding to keep the museum a vibrant part of the City of Cambridge.

Sincerely,

