MEMORANDUM

Date: Nov 16, 2026
To: Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and Members of Ottawa City Council
Cc: Wendy Stephanson**,** Caitlin Salter-Macdonald, Lesley Collins (City of Ottawa); Katherine Spencer-Ross, Carolyn Quinn, Linda Hoad (Heritage Ottawa)
From: Barry Padolsky
Re: Dissolving of the City's Built Heritage Committee

I have read and am surprised to learn that the City Clerk's Office's Governance Review Report tabled at the November 12, 2026 City Council meeting recommends the dissolving the Built Heritage Committee.

The BHC is not broken. This committee and its predecessors (BHSC and LACAC) were responsible for providing sage and responsible expert advice to City Council on heritage matters since the enactment of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1974.

These committees served as the *Municipal Heritage Committee* mandated by Ontario Heritage Act. The committees were respected by the public, developers, heritage advocacy groups, city heritage and planning staff, as well as city councillors. In my experience as a heritage architect, heritage advocate, a member of LACAC (1982-84) and a member of the BHSC (2013-2023) *the blended citizen/councillor heritage committee composition was effective and actually worked.*

Adopting the City Clerk's Office report recommendation will mean assigning the responsibilities of the OHA mandated Municipal Heritage Committee to a necessarily wide ranging "omnibus" Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee/Planning and Housing Committee.

Barry Padolsky Associates Inc. Urban Design and Heritage Consultant
Mobile: (613) 298-0553 Email: barrypadolsky@me.com Address: 8 Range Road ,Ottawa On. K1N 8J3

This change in governance will deprive City Council of obtaining the benefit of the special focus and independent expertise provided by the public members of the BHC.

I recommend that if the BHC is dissolved, the governance change should re-establish a Built Heritage Sub-Committee with a full cohort of citizen heritage experts to advise the new ARAPHC and Council on heritage matters.

The proposed dissolution of Ottawa's Built Heritage Committee in the year that we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Ottawa's founding and heritage is an irony that should not escape the attention of Ottawa City Council when considering the City Clerk's recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry Padolsky
B.Arch M.Sc (Urban Design) OAA, FRAIC, CAHP, RCA, Order of Ottawa.
(Member of Ottawa's BHSC 2013-2023)
Mobile: (613) 298-0553 Email: *barrypadolsky@me.com*