Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
Members of Council  
City of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Centre  
77 James St. N.  
Hamilton, ON  L8R 2K3

Smart - Turner Building - 191 Barton Street East

October 29, 2008

Mayor Eisenberger, Members of Council;

The Mark Preece Family House project is well underway with project/construction and fundraising moving forward hand in hand. This facility at 191 Barton St. East will be a home away from home for families of patients in Hamilton hospitals, and provide respite at a time families are experiencing a medical emergency in their lives.

Our not for profit charitable organization which is renovating the building and will sustain the family house operations has not sought heritage designation. Our progress to date gives evidence to the value we hold for the building. The building has progressed from a ruinous state to off the list of endangered heritage properties of Hamilton. The renovations have been sympathetic to the requests of the Hamilton Heritage Committee. We are very pleased with the outcome to date and have received compliments from our community neighbours. The organization has a long-term lease on the building with Hamilton Health Sciences, who has also asked that designation be deferred.

This organization has laboured passionately and productively to make the Mark Preece Family House a reality. In so doing we celebrate the life of Dr. Mark Preece, a young Hamilton doctor who tragically died from cancer, and answer a long unmet need in Hamilton. We rely on community donations to reach our financial targets. We are midway through our current campaign and would appreciate that the designation be delayed in order for us to maintain our focus and minimize public confusion and have our campaign case unchanged.

We have appreciated the patience of the Economic Development and Planning Committee since we first appeared before them in 2005. We have not changed our position are requesting that the designation be deferred until the completion of the project. The Mark Preece Family House plans to open for our families in the fall of 2009.

We ask that Council accept the request by Hamilton Health Sciences to delay the designation. When the project is complete we anticipate that we will all have the opportunity to celebrate renewal of a heritage building, which will then provide very important services, meeting the needs of patients and their families within Hamilton and its surrounding communities.

Best regards,

J.A. (Sandy) Craik  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mark Preece Family House  
Hospital Family Houses of Ontario  
#302-304 Victoria Ave. N.  
Hamilton, ON  L8L 5G4