Merchants, property owners and residents of King St. W.
in opposition to the Bus Lane Only changes

June 18th, 2013

Major and members of council

City of Hamilton ON.

We are merchants, property owners and residents of King St. West between Bay St. and Queen St. in opposition of the Bus Lane only changes in our neighborhood. As property owners, some of us have 30 or more years of experience with the characteristics of our neighborhood. We deal with apartment rentals, store front rentals, business operations, parking problems, traffic problems and have enough knowledge to know how negative this application of a bus lane will be. For over 30 (or more) years we have adjusted to our surrounding to suit our present set up, now we are expected to evolve in a way which doesn’t suit our needs anymore.

Please be clear, we are in complete opposition of application of this Bus Lane and expect the following letter not to be misunderstood. We are writing because we are now forced to accept its application, deal with its effects on us and suggest ways that the city will help us maintain some sort normalcy.

For the record, we are all frustrated in the lack of information, warning and conduct of the city in its sensitivity to our needs and issues.

We have designed the following letter in point form to address each problem which will arise and after each point we suggest possible solutions.

History

Since the time our buildings were built (approx. 100 years) parking out front in the curb lane has been a part of the natural access to businesses and has been working fine. It wasn’t until recently where malls finally realize the value of ease for customers to access a business and its importance, hence the BOX STORE style malls. People naturally avoid doing business when too much is involved in gaining access to an establishment. The distance between where you park and the door you need to access is crucial. This option will no longer be available to us. We are struggling enough as it is. This Lane restriction will just fuel our hardships.

Solution

-We understand how parking is planned across the street and would suggest a maximum stay of 30 minutes and enforced until at least 7 pm. This will ensure the parking will be used for our businesses and not the mall or distant needs.

-Create a time frame for the bus lane only use, between 2pm and 6pm to accommodate the rush hour traffic needs and allow regular usage after 6pm and on weekends. The bus lane is designed to alleviate traffic; there is no need for it at other hours. This will allow the city to generate extra income during those hours and double our parking availability.

-Clearly explain to MPAC that our properties no longer have the same status and that our values will be reduced considerably.
**Safety**

*FACT* Buses move at a more rapid pace than they should. Being a good judge of speed, I'd say some buses travel down King St. and other parts of the city beyond 70 km per hour. My concern for safety is most important in this letter. Without a buffer zone or pedestrian protection the risk of bus/pedestrian collision is imminent.

**Solution**

- Prepare a road safety report outlining what would be needed to ensure safety.
- Change the speed limit on our street to 40 km per hour.
- Create a speed bump on each block half way down the block.
- Have radar set up, similar to the one at Cootes Paradise for students attending McMaster University and their crosswalk safety.
- Set up cross walks half way through each block with button activation.
- Build a barrier between the sidewalk and road to protect pedestrians.

**Peace and quiet**

Buses come with annoying noise which will take away from the peaceful enjoyment of our space, especially the apartment dwellings above our stores. Noise includes BRAKES (air brake noise and worn brakes), ENGINE NOISE (while accelerating….very loud) HONKING OF HORN! This last item will happen often. People will still attempt to use the curb lane regardless of traffic laws. We can guarantee that when any bus driver encountering a driver parked in this lane will sound their horn and disturb the whole neighborhood during the evening and will constantly disturb peaceful business operations during the day.

**Solution**

- Consult with the HSR and find a method in which to create a quiet zone in our area. NO HORN BLOWING!
- Slow down acceleration noise by lowering the speed limit to 40 km /per hour.
- Penalize bus drivers for abusive horn habits.

**Bus stops**

In no way will we tolerate bus stops in front of our properties. This has been proven to create a place for loitering and trouble.

**Solution**

- Maintain present bus stop locations and do not add any more.
**Loading zone**

Access to our properties is limited. Our rear access will not accommodate deliveries by large vehicles. The overhead wires and tightness of space will restrict their ability for access. Imagine Ups and FedEx drivers zooming in and out of alleyways all day long....blocking access most of the time. The city hasn't even considered this problem from our observation. We need delivery access close to our front doors.

**Solution**

- Maintain the loading access as it is now for commercial vehicles or permit holders (merchants) only between 7am and 2pm, after 6pm on weekdays and all day on weekends.

**Dust**

From experience, we've noticed the amount of dust which is created between 4pm and 6pm (rush hour) due to racing buses and the dust storm they create while speeding by our stores. This type of dirt gets into everything and is very hard to remove, especially off of merchandise.

**Solution**

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- Create a speed bump on each block half way down the block.
- Have radar set up, similar to the one at Cootes Paradise for students attending McMaster University and their cross walk safety.
- Set up cross walks half way through each block with button activation.

**Right to enjoyment**

For years the description of King Street has been a Highway style road which is very unattractive. Now we are making is worse. Are the days of taking a stroll down an urban street with your family or lady gone? Will anyone be interested in visiting our establishments when this huge volume of bus traffic scares them off?

**Solution**

- Create curb appeal, something that will entice more business to our store fronts.
- Lower our taxes to compensate for our losses in rental appeal through MPAC
**One year Pilot**

Will our opinions matter during the pilot year or is this just a way to smooth over the permanent transition?

If opposition reaches a level which is obvious and we are affected considerably, will there be the option of cancelling the whole project?

**Summary**

We are all tax payers and follow the democratic way of doing business as you politicians do. We deserve to be heard and respected for our opinions. This application, by the city for a Bus Lane will change the way we’ve been doing business for decades, It will destroy the appeal of our rentals, It will disturb the peaceful enjoyment of our residential dwellings and it will risk the public’s safety.

None of us are satisfied with the chain of events which have lead to these changes. We will protest with all our hearts to abolish the Bus Lane all together.

At the last council meeting which we attended it was clear by city officials that this application of a bus lane will not make a significant difference in travel time for commuters.

We are aware, that the main reason for installation is to use the funds that are offered by Metrolinx “Quick Wins” before the use of those funds expires.

In the mean time we hope that our suggestions are heard, acknowledged and respected. We expect to meet with city officials to discuss some of the options we mentioned and hear their suggestions.

Please contact Konstantine Takis (head of this initiative) at **905-870-0939**

Or by e-mail at **NobuslaneL8P@Hotmail.com**

Attached is a petition by Property owners, business owners and residents of King St. West in Hamilton ON. Who have read and agreed with the contents of this letter and wish to address all their concerns.
Petition against bus lane

Date: June 19, 13
June 19, 2013

Hung Vuong
Konstantine Takis

Dazzling Nails
905-525-9888
Owner of 158 King St., 170 King St., 180 King St.
905-870-6437.

June 19, 2013
Salim Mustafa - Original Barber - Owner 989-244-3841

June 19, 2013
Hainghlaer Varnadi - Original Barber 287-237-2223

June 19, 2013
Kevin Mohammed - Famous Reips 789-389-9140

June 19, 2013
Steven Ding - Ding's Computers 905-522-3470

June 19, 2013
Alphonse Guirgues - La Gallerie Canadie 905-531-9367

June 19, 2013
Robert Moon - 276 King St W. 905-777-8944

June 19, 2013
Vin Le - Finest Wine & Brnd 260 King W. 905-768-9585

June 19, 2013
St. Martin - Bananas 905-977-1285

June 19, 2013
Ahmad Habb - La Luna 306 King St W 905-961-0946

June 19, 2013
Kobe Sethu - Boston Grill 234 King St W 905-387-7819

June 20, 2013
Pina Schombri - Primavera Hair Fashions

June 20, 2013
Ahmet Goksu - 170 King W 289-928-3110

June 20, 2013
Francesca Kopitzke 164 King St.
Enjoy Life Denture Centre

June 20, 2013
Andrew Little
224 King St W.
Cottage 13
TANGLEES

June 20, 2013
Diego Almonte
256 King St W.
Metro Clothing

June 20, 2013
Gino Ingamno
280 King St W.
June 20/2013 - PC 8 Inc.
465 King St. W.
K1Y 4L6

June 30/2013 - Mamelite Securities Inc.

605-603-8477
296 King St. E.
W5.5.

Petition against bus lane