

Date: May 20th, 2016

SUBJECT: Memoir on the Franciscan Site

To Whom it May Concern:

We, the **Residents' Association of Habitations Du Fort**, located at 2101 René-Lévesque Ouest, are a tenants association representing the needs and interests of our 86-apartment complex for senior citizens, those 60 years and older. The main mission of our organization is to defend the rights of our tenants. We live directly across from the Franciscan Site on the boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest, and will be directly impacted by the result of this decision.


A majority of our residents are socially isolated, low-income, handicapped elderly people, with limited access to private events and public parks located outside of the Peter-McGill district. For some of you, Mont-Royal Park may seem close, yet for an elderly senior citizen with mobility problems, it is very far and therefore not accessible. On a summer day, we would simply like to walk out our door and find tranquility in a safe, public space in nature for all generations to enjoy. The miniscule parks currently located in the sector are insufficient to the needs of elderly people, to families and to adults. They quickly feel crowded and are surrounded by so much pavement. Meanwhile, the CCA is not a public park, and Cabot Square contains more concrete than nature. The Franciscan Site is a much more appropriate site for a proper public park, with the potential for a shelter for picnics and for elderly people to seek shade on a hot summer day. The sidewalk in front of our building can easily be modified for safe passage across the street. Senior citizens can interact with other generations and families, which is becoming more and more difficult to do in our increasingly individualistic, privatized society.

We find the Condo project to be a deplorable insult to the citizens of Montreal. It will negatively impact the neighborhood, literally casting its long shadows upon the adjacent historic buildings, and upon our modest apartment complex. The small "public" park proposed in your project is shamefully small, and will be overshadowed by the two towers. Compared to other neighborhoods in Montreal where parks are abundant, we are currently asphyxiating due to the lack of green space in Peter-McGill. We do not even have a public community center. The further destruction of green space and community space will contribute to more loneliness, more solitude among senior citizens, and lead to a decline of our mental and physical health. We urge the Borough of Ville-Marie to make the morally right decision and benefit the needs of thousands of seniors and families in Montreal, instead of the private interests of the privileged few. We, the residents of Habitations Du Fort, are saying "NO!" to the Condo Project.

Best regards,


Apt: 608
KOOCHERIAN BABOOR. M. REZA

Members of the **Residents' Association of Habitations Du Fort**


N KELLY 313