

Statement Concerning « Stratégie Centre-ville »

As residents of Shaugnessy Village, a downtown neighbourhood of the Peter McGill sector of Ville Marie, we were quite dismayed to hear Mr. Bergeron give a presentation several weeks ago, organized by Interaction Peter McGill concerning his vision of our district. In his presentation Mr. Bergeron put much emphasis on the densification of office spaces as well as large condo buildings.

These new condo projects that have recently been erected in the core of downtown, do not really address the needs of families, despite the fact that the City of Montreal decries the fact that more and more families are leaving the island to move to the suburbs. Affordable housing and homes that can accommodate families with children is certainly a serious lacunae in our sector, as are the services to address the needs of these families.

Mr. Bergeron's strategy will again put pressure on our neighbourhood that already houses more than 30,000 people. We believe that the lack of green space, noise, increased pollution and traffic will have a detrimental effect on our quality of life. In addition there seems to be little consideration of aesthetic issues, in a neighbourhood that contains many very well preserved examples of typical Montreal 19th century architecture, our signature grey and red stone houses. Recent building projects that have been accepted by the city do not harmonize at all with the heritage buildings. Little attention seems to be paid to the blocking of light as well as wind tunnel effects that these buildings create, whether they be condo towers or office buildings.

In brief, as citizens, we feel that our voices are not heard by the city. We are rarely consulted and in fact, were not consulted at all prior to the Strategy outlined by Mr. Bergeron. We are perfectly in agreement with the document presented to the OCPM by Interaction Peter McGill that greater consideration should be paid to the current residents of our sector in the way of environmental factors, noise and atmospheric pollution and traffic. We also in total agreement with the recommendations below. There should be:

- 1) greater consultation with the residents in addressing the need for more green spaces and parks
- 2) greater attention to the need for affordable housing for families
- 3) more collaboration with the citizens concerning the designing of public spaces.

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