

Montreal, December 9th 2009

Mr. Gilles Vézina
Office de consultation publique de Montréal
1550 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1414
Montréal, QC, H3A 1X6

RE : PARKING FOR ST. NICHOLAS TAVELIC, CROATIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Mr. Vézina,

My name is Father Jozo Grubisic. I am the parish priest of the Croat Catholic Association, St. Nicholas Tavelic Mission, which is located in the cul de sac at 4990 Place de la Savane, in Montreal. I am writing to you on behalf of my parish.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our serious concerns over the proposed change to the City zoning by-laws as they pertain to the Redevelopment of Namur – Jean-Talon Ouest Area.

As you may know, the Croat Catholic Association, St. Nicholas Tavelic is the only Croatian Roman Catholic Church in the province of Quebec. It is and has been the church and community gathering centre for Quebec's Croatian community since 1979. Over 4,000 members and guests, including dignitaries and members of parliament, from all regions of Quebec, attend religious services and cultural activities at our church, with over 400 regular members attending on a weekly basis, most frequently on Saturdays and Sundays. Our location is central to our members who travel with their families, mostly by car, from various parts of the city and province (ex: Sherbrooke, Quebec City, etc...).

Given the proposed changes to the City by-laws, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact the new zoning by-laws will have on our members' ability to attend our religious services and cultural activities. Our members and guests rely on available parking on Place de la Savane and de la Savane Street (as well as the vacant parking spaces made available to us by the adjacent commercial buildings on weekends).

It is imperative that our members and guests continue to be able to park on Place de la Savane and de la Savane streets; our continued growth and very survival depends on this. Consequently, we hereby propose that the area outlined by these streets **retain its current zoning, namely: commercial, industrial and institutional.**

We count upon you to see to it that the appropriate provisions be made in the proposed by-laws to accommodate our critical parking needs, without which our church and community centre will have drastically diminished attendance and its very existence will be threatened. We are certain that it is not the intention of your proposed by-laws to have such a damaging impact.

We remain available to discuss this matter with you and in the meantime, remain,

Respectfully yours,

Parish priest, Father Jozo Grubisic, OFM