

**Elgin  
Area  
Business  
Association**

May 3, 2002

Constable Horton and  
The Ottawa Police Services  
474 Elgin Street  
OTTAWA, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

RE: Elgin St. Project

I was pleased to attend the meeting on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, organized by Constable Horton with various members of Ottawa By-law Enforcement and Ottawa Police Services (OPS) staff and three businesses from Elgin Street (Maxwells, Griffins, Elgin Diner). I attended such meeting in my capacity as President of the Elgin Area Business Association (EBA). As an aside, there are two organizations on Elgin; the second is the Elgin Area Property Owners Association of which I am also President (EPA).

As a lawyer, I have spent most of the last 30 years listening to others. Despite Constable Horton's apparent irritation and incredulous response, I understood, from the earlier meeting at Maxwells, that you were seeking to establish improved communication between OPS and Elgin Street residents and businesses. OPS staff, at the most recent meeting, made it clear that the Market and Elgin Street which is a close second, are 'heavy maintenance areas' and OPS, through this project headed by Constable Horton, wish to reduce the demands of maintenance on OPS in relation to Elgin St. Part of this broader project, will involve improved communication between OPS and Elgin Street residents and businesses. Others I have spoken to, who were at the meeting at Maxwells, also did not have a sense of this broader project; the need to improve communication is, therefore obvious.

Certainly the increased policing, particularly on Saturday evenings, which was requested, by the EBA, at the Maxwells' meeting and has since been provided by OPS is very welcome. Many EBA members continue to highlight the exemplary policing, being provided by Constable Oakes and his platoon on Elgin St. Any increase in their presence on Elgin St., and their initiative and effectiveness, serving as an example for others, is advisable.

From EBA's perspective, the most important objective is to retain the largely crime free image of Elgin St. Many property owners (i.e. Saikley, Boushey, Eyamie, Karam, Goldstein, Nesrallah) own the property from which they operate their business. The ongoing efforts of

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these property/business owners over the last 30 years, many of whom have \$10,000,00. to \$20,000,000. invested in their property and business, has been the most important factor in the development of Elgin and why it has not suffered the fate of Rideau, Sparks or Bank Street North and does not reflect the demise of parts of main streets in other major cities (i.e. St Catherine, Yonge). In many instances, the second generation (i.e. Karam, Abraham, Saikley) and in some instances the third generation (i.e. Eyamie) and in limited instances the fourth generation (Boushey) are today continuing such efforts. It is certainly encouraging to see newcomers to Elgin St., like Constable Horton, interested in its future.

We are pleased by the stated intention of the OPS to keep the EBA informed of its impending initiatives and to solicit suggestions from the EBA. Two (2) days notice of any meeting and a time frame that is not between 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. is desirable; we have several comfortable and central meeting venues which we will make available. We are especially interested in the suggestion of Constable Roberts and Constable Horton that a flyer accompany parking tickets being issued in the recently initiated ticketing blitz on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays involving approximately 60 tickets each night. The flyer would outline parking lots available in close proximity to Elgin St. EBA will fund the flyer which, as discussed, will also suggest a cab if there is any question as to sobriety and request, respect for the rights of others with a view to controlling noise levels. We will shortly forward a draft of the flyer to Constable Horton for approval. We will print the flyers in batches of 5,000 which should involve a 5 to 6 month supply. EBA will also request its members who serve alcohol to, as suggested by Constable Horton, have their D.J.'s at the end of each evening, remind customers that it is the early hours of the morning and that noise levels should be contained. We will also request EBA members to solicit input from By-law Enforcement Officers, as to effective noise control measures.

We will solicit and summarize for you input, from members of the EBA. The EBA has an e-mail network with many of the businesses and property owners on Elgin St. and its web-site will be up and running later this month. We can include an up-date on the OPS project with our quarterly newsletter or periodic e-mail communication.

Yours truly,

Brian William Karam

BWK:smc