

21 November 2019

**Attn: St. John's City Council and St. John's City Clerk**

The following document and petition is being submitted to be registered in the agenda for the Public Hearing (27 November 2019) regarding the proposed zoning changes to 66-68 Queen's Road.

Greetings,

Please find below a petition entitled: **Save the Last Naturalized Green Space in Downtown St. John's** demanding that the City Council of St. John's **reject the proposal to change the zoning of the land behind the Old Parish Hall at 66-68 Queen's Road, St. John's to be changed from Open Space to Commercial Central Mixed Use (CCM).**

The petition was collected in two parts, one with signatures recorded on paper and one with signatures collected online. The online portion can be found at <http://chnng.it/sXktkL94BC>. **More signatures are still being collected**, but the current count of the two part of the petition below is **2624 signatures** (508 from the paper petition, 2116 from the online petition).

The petition was introduced to the public with the below statements:

**These are the reasons for this Petition:**

The green space behind the Anglican Parish Hall (68 Queen's Road- across Harvey Road from The Rooms) is the last naturalized forest space in downtown St. John's. It is home to century-old trees, songbirds and other small wildlife—valuable in and of itself—and is part of the historic fabric of downtown. This space offers a sense of nature to residents and to tourists as they visit famous landmarks of the City of St. John's, such as The Basilica and The Rooms.

It would be a tremendous and permanent loss to our city if this "Open" space were re-zoned to "Commercial Mixed" to allow the construction of a 10-storey condominium (currently under consideration). Further, changing the zoning of this open space conflicts with stated priorities in the St. John's

Municipal Plan (2003) and the Envision St. John's Municipal Plan (Feb.2019-Draft).

The online Portion of the petition has a further statement:

A paper version of this petition has been circulating in the community. If you have signed the paper version, please refrain from signing this online version as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Graham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Graham