



December 7, 2020

I am writing as President of the Manor Park Community Association to express our disappointment with the latest version of the Ward Boundary Review Option 6. In particular, it is **not acceptable that Cardinal Glen will be arbitrarily removed, along with the west side of St Laurent between Montreal Road and Hemlock, from what has long been part of Manor Park and Ward 13, and to be added to Vanier.**

Cities are organic systems of history, culture, commerce, and most importantly community relationships. This is *an arbitrary and mechanistic change* that will only serve to weaken our communities. We strongly protest.

MPCA is in full agreement with Cardinal Glen's protest. We are a strongly-knit community and have enjoyed a long historical relationship and strong community relationships. We partner on many important issues common to our two communities and to the east end. (*see Allan Martel's November 21<sup>st</sup> email*).

We are also concerned about losing three St Laurent residential towers, two of which house low-income and vulnerable residents. These residents will be **lost among the many challenges facing social services in Vanier.**

We have worked hard over three years to build strong trust with the residents of the OCH building. We have used Census evidence and income tax evidence to get support from Ottawa Community Housing and the Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centers to address child and elderly poverty in 500 St Laurent and hopefully soon the housing cooperative next door.

We also know that developers have their eye on the west side of St Laurent Blvd. Cardinal Glen and MPCA face a 35-acre redevelopment in Manor Park that will deeply affect the quality of life of both of our communities. A split between two councillors will greatly weaken our ability to leverage political will for community support. It will prevent the present Ward 13's councillor from being the main interlocutor with the developers whose projects will have a major impact on our quality of life, but will have no impact on the concerns facing Vanier.

The official excuse for the Option 6 changes – not changed in any of the consultant's previous options to Cardinal Glen and last week's sudden change to Vanier's southern border was that the **"consultant" wants tidy lines.**

While the idea of boundaries being on streets or other clear natural boundaries and not through backyards has some merit, it is not absolute, and certainly does not trump existing community

bonds, history and the significant negative impact it will have on the existing community social capital. **We have lived with the old Vanier boundary since before we were all born, and it has not created any unsolvable problem for City administration.**

Significantly, the fact is that the consultant's earlier approach changed none of these boundaries, that are now being tidied up. For us, it will double the workload of an already exhausted volunteer community association in having to work with two councillors. It will double our time and split fundraising between two underfunded community resource centers.

It sets us back on poverty reduction and building social cohesion as we will have to build new relationships and compete for funding as newcomers to Vanier.

This kind of mechanistic decision-making without any due consideration and effort to understand the impact is frankly debilitating for volunteer and non-profit organizations, and just sucks the life out of volunteers.

We look forward to hearing a more humble approach is taken by the consultants and the city and that our boundaries will remain same.

Best Regards.

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