

April 28th, 2009

Municipal Clerk
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
clerks@halifax.ca

Mayor and Council:

Re: Written Submission for HRMbyDesign Public Hearing

My purpose in writing is to reiterate the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's full support for HRMbyDesign.

By voting YES, to HRMbyDesign, Council is:

- solidifying the future of our downtown core and therefore the future of our city;
- showing leadership by creating a unified vision of the downtown;
- supporting the Regional Plan; and
- re-focusing Council on the bigger policy issues.

Council is expected to make thousands of decisions each year. The details can be distracting from the overall purpose of Council, which of course, is to make policy and budget decisions.

By leaving the details to the Design Review Committee, Council can focus on the bigger picture, while at the same time preserve the integrity of the public input process and send a message to the people of Halifax that their local government respects their input.

For those of you who weren't present at the Mayor's recent Economic Forum, one of the key messages stated, over and over again, was that in order for a city to be successful, there must be a strong investment in the downtown core. In order to have investment in the downtown, we must have a clear and predictable approval process for development. Members of the Chamber of Commerce have been telling us for many years that this is critical for our city's future. HRMbyDesign will do this for our city.

Don't let the voice of a vocal few distract you from making the right choice. The citizens of Halifax have told you what they want – which is for Council to support HRMbyDesign.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Payn
President & CEO