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City of Montreal  
and borough of Griffintown

**Subject: Preserving Griffintown's Character & Citizen Participation in Future Developments**

Dear members of the planning committees,

As longstanding residents and physicians in Griffintown, we have witnessed significant neighbourhood growth and associated density issues. Responding to your public consultation regarding the future development of Griffintown (<https://ocpm.qc.ca/fr/future-griffintown>), we feel compelled to voice our concerns.

The timing of this consultation - midsummer - may limit some residents' participation. However, its relevance cannot be overstated, as the outcomes will critically shape our community's future.

We strongly oppose the proposed measures by the Arrondissement du Sud-Ouest, specifically those seeking to eliminate citizen objections to development projects and authorizing high-rise construction. Instead, we propose fostering civic engagement and enhancing our neighbourhood with a greener, more human-centered approach.

From the Projet Montréal's 2021 electoral platform, we anticipated an open dialogue with residents to better understand the challenges faced, including issues related to overdensification, building height, sunlight, air quality, green spaces, heritage protection, safety, mobility, and local services. However, upon reviewing the borough's proposed report (<https://bit.ly/440xVgZ>), it appears that the city intends to remove barriers hindering real estate development rather than seeking collective solutions.

The borough essentially proposes to:

Disallow citizen objections to city-proposed projects (via the referendum process)

Modify urban planning regulations aligning with development and density objectives from the Griffintown PPU.

Essentially, the city seeks to build high-rises without citizen referendum approval. We vehemently oppose these strategies and instead demand to:

Retain the citizen referendum approval process, promoting democracy and enabling neighbourhood oversight of real estate developments.

Revise the Urban plan for Griffintown to address resident concerns about sunlight, air quality, green spaces, heritage protection, safety, mobility, and local services.

Until these revisions are implemented, the city must respect referendum outcomes, and it would be unacceptable to use this consultation as a means to bypass democratic processes. The borough should also maintain the status quo regarding its urban planning by-laws, including heritage, density, and building height criteria.

We prioritize the well-being of our community and do not wish to see Griffintown transformed into a low-to-middle-standard living area.

Sincerely,



Silke A. Friedrich, M.D.



Matthias G. Friedrich, M.D.