

To whom it may concern:

My name is Adele Libman Ostroff. I am neither a business owner nor a landowner in this area; I am a retired senior citizen who has lived here for twenty five years. My perspective is written as an ordinary citizen and resident of this area that I call home.

The writing of this letter is in regards to the Special Planning Program for my neighborhood, otherwise referred to as the “Quartier Des Grands Jardins”. It is my understanding that the city is planning to get rid of the only parking lot west of Guy Street in order to create a park in its place.

For five of the years that I’ve lived here, I lived in the area of Cabot Square. I strongly consider that area as having safety issues which until today have never been resolved. I moved to 2300 St. Mathieu instead because I felt it was more comfortable, **until now - due to the plans set out in the SPP**. I would also like to point out that Fifty percent of residents in my building are senior citizens, like me, who have been here from anywhere between 20 and 35 years.

In regards to the homeless and drug addicts who used to hang around the Seville Theatre, which is now under construction; is this park going to be their new home? How is the city going to prevent this?

When friends, children, and grandchildren come to visit, there is literally no parking in this area. One small and well-lit parking lot covers the entire area from Atwater Street to Guy Street.

Instead, do we even need a small park? A place for us to sit in the sun and walk our dogs? Who is going to clean up the dog poop? Or, is this park supposed to entice young families to the area? If so, where are the daycares and nursery schools?

I have some suggestions: I think the city should leave the parking as is and build a homeless shelter in the area and maybe then perhaps the neighborhood would be cleaner and safer. Also, green space is a lovely idea! Why not plant trees, pretty up the area and improve the lighting on de Maisonneuve W.? The yellow lights might be better for drivers but at night it is eerie and feels unsafe for the rest of us.

Please help to ensure that the city uses our money wisely. They need to use it where it will do the citizens the most good. It would also be nice if the city planners would spend time in this area so they can really evaluate the problems that it faces. If they don't, they should at least listen to the residents of the area who live here, we know our neighborhood better than anyone else!

Trusting you will give my letter serious consideration,  
From an ordinary citizen who loves her neighborhood, and spokesperson for my building.  
Please, keep it safe!

Adele Libman Ostroff