From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:52 PM
To: legal
Subject: 1-3 hillside project

Would be better to have a nice new project in that location, this building is ugly and dangerous being vacant and next to a school. It should get demolished right away and rebuilt.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

I, [Redacted], have no objection to the complete demolition of the building situated at 1-3 Hillside as I find it overall in poor condition and now more of an eyesore. Hopefully a better looking new project will rise in its place...

Sincerely, [Redacted]

Cell [Redacted]

Sent from my iPad
It will be nice to see a new construction. this building is a real eye soar
A very much welcome improvement to the neighbourhood
Good afternoon,

The building at the address 1-3 av Hillside, Westmount has no historical value and out of date. It would be better to see new attractive and usable constructions on this site instead.

Thank you.

Regards,
To the City Clerk of Westmount:

I wish to express my support for the demolition and conversion to a residential project of the old Armory building at 1-3 Hillside. It is long overdue to remove this eyesore in my neighborhood and add needed housing. The proposed residential building will be a great addition to the Flats.

Westmount
Bravo.
Finally some movement in the plan to turn a decrepit falling down building into something useful and attractive.
I have watched in utter awe as this property has literally fallen apart while different committees and self interest groups argued amongst themselves.
The plans the developers presented, several times after the city mandated changes, are a far sight better than what is currently there.
This is an ugly building and now there's hope it can be reborn.
And Westmount will get some much needed new housing and some tax revenue.
Win win in my books.
Hello,

I am writing regarding the demolition of 1-3 Hillside. It's time this building gets restored and we stop having an abandoned building right next to a school and retirement home. The new plans look beautiful and I am for this project.

Please consider my opinion. As a fellow young Westmount resident who is looking forward to new developments and livelihood in the area.

Thank you,
I am a long time resident residing at [redacted]
Part of my daily walk thru our beautiful park down to hillside and around the sports field.

I understand there is a potential project to improve our neighbourhood by demolishing the eyesore on the corner of hillside.

In my opinion the building in question is a decrepit old structure and a complete demolition is the only route. The present structure has no beauty or historic value.

If citizens' have a voice a new modern, aproptiate, building will add value to my community and my daily walk.

Thank you
Hello,

I'd just like to let you know that I am fully supporting the demolition of the original building on 1-3 Hillside, which has not been maintained now for years and has reached a point of no return. The plans for a new building look very nice and the city of Westmount is in great need for new buildings of that type, which will attire a lot of actual or new residents. Although I understand the initial hesitations of the City to destroy a "historic" building, the restoration of the building should have happened years ago to allow a result, satisfying all the parties involved in the project.

I sincerely hope this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Best regards,
To whom it may concern,

The demolition of the building 1-3 Hillside should be authorized. The proposed plan for renovation would embellish the area. It’s a sour eye, as is. The architecture is respected and ameliorated. It’s a plus in Westmount.

Yours,

Westmount
Hello,

I’m long-time resident, currently living on Edgehill. I’ve run on the track outside Westmount High School for years, and have periodically followed the saga of this building in the Independent.

Please demolish it. It’s an eyesore with no architectural value. Everyone around would benefit from a new construction, as it would make the area feel safer and less dilapidated.

Best regards,
Hello,

I am writing regarding the demotion of 1-3 Hillside, the new plans look beautiful, it's time this building gets restored and we stop having an abandoned building right next to a school and retirement home.

Thanks,
I am writing to express my full support with regards to the demolition of the old armoury at the above location. This abandoned building looks terrible and is even a hazard for the city. Please demolish it!! I am very happy to see a new building going up in this lovely neighborhood. We need to restore the quality of our neighborhood, by replacing older structures with new and improved ones. This project looks fantastic.

Regards,
Dear sir or madam,

As an owner and resident at [redacted], I write to oppose the demolition of 1-3 Hillside until a suitable Replacement Program is presented and made public. The current preliminary program is not acceptable as I believe it encroaches on setbacks, is not height or density compliant, and has yet to be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.
Madame, Monsieur,

Par la présente, nous aimerions vous informer de notre opposition à la démolition de l’immeuble situé au 1-3, avenue Hillside pour la construction d’un immeuble de 5 étages avec 27 unités de condo.

En tant qu’habitants du [lieu], on se sent directement concernés par cette décision. Voici les raisons sur lesquelles se basent notre opposition motivée.

- Tout d’abord, vous ne pensez pas que c’est le meilleur moment pour la ville de Westmount de prendre finalement une décision raisonnable qui pourrait réparer les deux mauvaises décisions prises dans le passé (référence : fichier Étude Patrimonial réalisé en janvier 2019 qui se trouve sur le site de la ville de Westmount)

1- Refuser l’offre d’achat du gouvernement fédéral à deux reprises.

2- Refuser le magnifique projet de la construction d’un centre sportif présenté par Hillside Limited Partnership sous prétexte du manque des stationnements (Le nouveau propriétaire, Hillside Limited Partnership poursuit le développement de son projet d’un centre sportif et des discussions préliminaires ont lieu avec la Ville de Westmount. En juin 2018, toutefois, le promoteur annonce sa décision de ne pas aller de l’avant avec un projet de piscine intérieure étant donné l’exigence de la Ville de Westmount de fournir 30 places de stationnement au sous-sol, là où était prévue la piscine. Le projet inclut également une patinoire et un simulateur de golf au rez-de-chaussée et des salles d’entraînement aux étages.)

Tandis que juste à côté du terrain athlétique de l’école secondaire de Westmount, il y a des stationnements pour M et Mme tout le monde. En plus les habitants de ce quartier qui sont majoritairement cultivés adorent bouger et marcher pour être en bonne santé et dans un souci du respect de l’environnement.

- Après avoir vécu pendant 2 ans une pandémie affreuse qui n’est pas prête à terminer, (et qui a transformé notre petit condo en 2 bureaux et quelquefois une salle de classe) on n’a pas la tolérance et la patience nécessaires pour subir une immense nuisance sonore et la
pollution qui va durer au moins 2 ans pour réaliser un tel projet qui va détruire notre intimidé (fenêtres qui vont s’ouvrir en face des nôtres), qui va augmenter le taux de la circulation (déjà problématique à cause de la présence de l’école et les parents qui ne respectent pas les règles de la circulation). Une telle décision signifierait que la ville de Westmount ne donne aucune importance à la santé mentale des habitants de ce coin majoritairement les familles avec les enfants et les personnes âgées et elle est prête à serrer la main d’un entrepreneur dont le seul objectif est de remplir sa poche.

- Comme les parents d’un petit garçon qui fréquente l’école St Léon de Westmount, on sait qu’il y a beaucoup de familles qui cherchent désespérément un centre sportif pour faire bouger leurs enfants. Pensez-vous que c’est raisonnable d’habiter à Westmount et d’être obligés d’amener nos enfants à Côte Saint Luc pour faire de la natation ou les amener à Côte de Liesse ou à l’île des sœurs pour pratiquer du tennis durant les 8 mois de l’année? Selon vous, ce n’est pas la perte de l’énergie, du temps et de l’argent?

- Comment on pourrait ignorer l’aspect historique de cet immeuble qui devrait être un point de repère pour la nouvelle génération de Westmount? Pourquoi pas construire un centre sportif et culturel qui pourrait faire connaître l’histoire impressionnante de cet immeuble aux jeunes (une source d’inspiration, un sentiment de fierté et d’appartenance)

Si vous pensez que l’option de construire un centre sportif et culturel n’est absolument pas envisageable, alors la moindre de chose à faire est de convaincre le propriétaire de cet immeuble de construire 4 ou 5 maisons de ville en 3 étages, pas plus.

Résumé :

**Non à une construction massive et Oui à un centre sportif et culturel**
Hello

Last summer I noticed that the exterior brick wall was falling down and some workers had to stabilize the façade. The demolition of the Hillside building shall be authorised asap, to avoid potential risks. The restored building proposed looks much better, than this industrial building ever did. I really wish the City will speed up the process to allow the developer to start renovation this year. Thank you for your attention.
To the City Clerk of Westmount,

I am living in the Old Armoury and Treasurer's office, as long as the Royal Canadian Engineers were occupying it. After they left, this poor old structure was just plain disrespectfully left to fall into total disrepair. Now, the look like the shell of the once so graceful building, is very disturbing. It must be remedied - sorry, to say!

Now this: Please do not allow it "huge" concrete structure to "occupy" our hillside concrete building. Plus, it reasonable space should be preserved away from the new western wall, because right now our eastern wall is attached to the western wall of the Armoury.

Thanking you in advance!

Sorry, I have no internet, therefore no e-mail.
Dear Demolition committee,

During summer I jog on the Westmount high school track and I noticed the brick on the Hillside building was falling and they were doing some repairs.

I never walk on the sidewalk of the building. It's evident it's in very poor condition and very close to the sidewalk. I highly encourage the city to move forward with the demolition.

The new plans look fantastic BTW!
January 19, 2022

City of Westmount  
4333 Sherbrooke Street W  
Westmount QC H3Z 1E2

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the proposed demolition and condo construction at 1-3 Hillside Avenue. We don’t see any potential benefits to the plan being put forward and are very strongly opposed. Not only would this proposed demolition destroy a piece of history, but the proposed condo construction would ruin the street and negatively affect all residents in the area for a great number of reasons.

First of all, the owner has left this historic building to deteriorate and has done very little to maintain it since taking ownership in 2018. The owners have been very negligent with building maintenance and have not invested enough in the basic upkeep of the building. If you deduct the amount of money they should have spent on maintenance from when they first took ownership from the restoration costs, then the cost wouldn’t be so prohibitive and they could save the building. If this demolition were to be accepted, it may set a negative precedent by which property owners could simply avoid basic maintenance and use the eventual dilapidation as an excuse to demolish and reconstruct.

We are proud to say that the City of Westmount places high value in the preservation of history, and efforts should be made to preserve the original structure of the building in order to honour the history it represents. The proposed plan does little to maintain or reflect the New York industrial style that so few buildings in the area exhibit. Moreover, this remains one of the few historic military buildings left in Quebec and it would be a shame not to conserve it, especially considering that the City of Westmount has always upheld a value in honouring military history. The proposed plan is to destroy 87% of the original structure and the supposed restoration fails to respect this building’s heritage. The owner has acted in poor faith and has pushed forward with a project that doesn’t suit well with the neighbourhood.

The proposed 5-storey condo building goes against zoning laws that are in place to respect the aesthetic and atmosphere of the neighbourhood. We feel that it is very important to respect the established zoning laws to protect the integrity, beauty and diversity of the landscape. Having areas such as these with lower buildings creates a warm and friendly environment for pedestrians and residents alike. There are already enough six- to eight-storey towers in the vicinity and the addition of another tall building that exceeds zoning regulations would dwarf and obscure 11 Hillside. The height of the building would impose more shadow over the nearby retirement home and other neighbouring buildings. It would also greatly reduce the natural sunlight and skylight to all
residents of 11 Hillside who face this direction. Although there are claims that the proposed setbacks will minimize shadow, it is not convincing and neighbours would definitely be affected.

In addition, there would be a significant reduction of privacy to residents of this direction as the space between the two properties is already quite limited. When comparing the windowspace on the west side elevation in the original building to that of the proposed plan, there is a drastic difference between the two. In the plan, much of the walls are replaced by floor-to-ceiling windows with balconies to go along. This would completely eliminate any sense of privacy for residents of 11 Hillside who face that direction and would be looking straight on into neighbouring units that are mere metres away.

Despite claimed traffic studies that suggest the project might not have an impact, we are highly concerned about the increased traffic that such a construction would inevitably introduce. Hillside Avenue is a crowded, narrow street with limited parking and traffic is already somewhat of a problem. The increase in the flow of traffic that would result from a large condo construction would be bad for the street. As well, the proposed location of the underground parking entrance, which is right next to the entrance of 11 Hillside’s parking garage, would pose a danger to pedestrians and motorists. There would certainly be a greater risk of collisions.

As residents and owners of unit, we would be directly impacted by this proposal. Our building shares a wall with 1-3 Hillside and our unit looks out onto this historic brick building. The current historic structure with brick walls and trees provide our unit with a lovely and unique cachet. We want to ensure that this building is protected and not destroyed.

This proposition for demolition is one of a series of permits that the owner would require to go forward with the project as the proposed height and density of the building are non-compliant and require a SCAOPI application. We fear that if demolition were to move forward and other permits were denied, the owner could very well abandon the project and leave the property in an even worse condition.

We thank you for considering our concerns and hope that the right decision is made regarding the future of this historic building.

Sincerely,
I object to the proposed demolition of 1-3 Hillside Avenue.

The public notice with its attached presentation provides information insufficient for residents to make an informed view on the project.

1. **Interior concrete supporting structure:**
   What percentage of the interior supporting structure is to be demolished? The application does follow the current definition of demolition which is concerned only with exterior heritage value and excludes any mention of the interior supporting structure. No other information is provided.
   The loss of embodied carbon must however be considered in any demolition proposal. Westmount is now expressly committed to "green accounting" and GHG mitigation. The city must identify the amount of embodied carbon lost from any demolition and rebuilding of the supporting structure.

2. **Deteriorated structure:**
   The presentation does not identify the removal of any supporting structure which may be required. It is impossible for residents to determine whether any removal is mandated due to excessive deterioration of the concrete or required purely by the design of the replacement.
   If the developer is stating, as in its previous application, that the existing concrete is structurally unsound, has the city undertaken any independent analysis of this assertion to confirm this? The city does have a bank of specialist hours at its disposal to do so.

3. **Approval by a Committee:**
   The final page of the presentation clearly states that the application has already been approved by a committee, without being precise about which committee. It reads "The Committee is convinced the proposed demolition is advisable."
   This statement implies that the presentation and hearing is perfunctory as the decision has already been made. However, if this statement is incorrect then the City of Westmount, on its website, has presented false information in a legal format to residents regarding the application. If this is indeed the case, the application should be withdrawn and a corrected one resubmitted for even this reason alone.

4. **Council's values and goals:**
   Improved transparency and more effective consultation with residents were recently reaffirmed by council for its new mandate. As it now stands, this application falls seriously short. The application should be withdrawn and reintroduced with appropriate supporting documentation so the merits and challenges of the proposal can be fully understood by Westmount residents.
Good morning,

I am writing regarding the demolition of 1-3 Hillside, I believe the old building needs to be replaced ASAP. Old buildings tend to have weak infrastructure and deteriorating materials that can be a threat to the public in general.

An abandoned building can become infested with pests, toxic materials, and cause vandalism. The new building looks simple, it’s a great reproduction of the existing building.

It is certain that this new construction is a good value to the community. I kindly ask the committee to move forward with the new project.

Thank you,
June 17, 2021

Opposition to demolition of former military engineer armory at 1-3 Hillside

Demolition hearing: July 8, Westmount

Submitted by

At the outset I wish to say I attended the February, 2019 consultation with the developer, city officials, and residents of Westmount.

I am not an architect or an engineer.

My reservations have to do with the lack of information provided and the lack of due process leading to a request for a demolition permit.

1) Lest we forget, the apogee of the horse in Canadian history was 1921; that is to say, when there were as many or more horses than people. It was a main draughts animal until quite late, and this former military engineer unit housed at 1-3 Hillside, may be one of the last left of an edifice that had stables on the ground floor and a riding ring on the 1st floor, or mezzanine…therefore this building is very historic.

2) At the meeting, we, the public, were shown pictures of the original interior of the riding oval and of the elongated windows, and of the roof arches that were spectacular.

3) An engineer with the project advanced by the developer, simply told us the roof superstructure and the floors were in an advanced state of deterioration, and not salvageable.

4) No documentation was provided to substantiate the claim of a ruined interior.

5) I, and others at the meeting, found it strange that if the basic foundation was in such bad repair, how was it that no inspector from Westmount had ever visited the premises and filed a report?

6) It doesn’t seem to me that a demolition permit can be accorded until the status of the building has been evaluated by an independent building inspector.

7) One can imagine that the stress of a horse riding oval on the first floor must have been reinforced very substantially. The walls might today be eroded to the point of collapsing, but what about the actual foundations and the roof arches?

8) Can something like the refurbishment of Maison Alcan be envisaged here?

Best regards,
Good evening,

I am writing in favour for to transform the westmount armory into a residential project.

I do understand that this is considered a heritage building but feel that the new project plans will be safer and more esthetically pleasing than the current decrepit building with the brick falling apart.

It will also provide new residents to have better proximity to their loved ones at the nearby school and child.

I recommend approving the demolition required for this project. Thank you for your consideration.
Bonjour,

La présente est pour vous faire part de notre appui au projet de démolition cité en rubrique.

Notre appui est fondé sur :

- La beauté de la nouvelle architecture du projet de remplacement. Le bâtiment, que le promoteur prend soin de réaliser dans les mêmes volumes et architecture d’origine, apportera, sans contexte, une nouvelle fraîcheur au quartier et à son environnement, d’autant plus qu’il est en phase avec son milieu d’appartenance. La beauté dans nos environnements quotidiens représente de grands bénéfices pour la population, dont celui de susciter des émotions positives : admiration, confort, sécurité, stabilité etc.
- L’état déplorable dans lequel se trouve le bâtiment actuel : inhabité, contaminé, non entretenu, et couvert de briques détériorées;
- Le danger que la vétusté du bâtiment peut causer aux institutions à proximité : écoles, CHSLD, etc.

J’espère vivement que vous tiendrez compte de notre avis dans le cadre de cette demande.

Salutations,

La force augmente en osant ; la crainte en différant
Citation de Publilius Syrus ; Les sentences et adages - 1er s. av. J.-C
To: City Clerk, Westmount  
Re: Opposition to Demolition  
   of former Armoury, at  
1-3 Hillside Avenue Jan 20,2022

Greetings,

Today I sent you a copy of an email to  
Councillor Peart and Mayor Christina Smith.

It was in reference to a previous letter  
I had sent to the City on June 17th, 2021, re a  
proposed meeting with the developer  
on July 8th, of last year, which was cancelled.

I would like to clarify my concern.

1) A key line in the Demolition Notice is:  
   …refurbishing the said building "without changing its  
   industrial use and according to building regulations, is approximately  
   $10,000,000 and would require a demolition inferior to 50%., this.. "

2) Okay, but what about the interior?  

The developer wants to demolish 87% of the building.

3) There are no pictures or diagrams of the present  
   status of the interior...Yet, this historical riding academy  
had a riding ring on the second or mezzanine floor, with  
a spectacular arching structure of steel/ iron lacework.

4) What remains of the interior and is some aspect salvagable?  

5) This question has not been clarified...It would seem  
   the developer wants to rip down everything down, regardless  
   of the once remarkable interior.

I attach my letter of June 7th, 2021. (6) We had asked a  
Westmount Building Inspector to conduct a survey, and provide  
evaluation. This doesn’t seem to have taken place.  
7) What is the position of PAC on this issue?
It seems precipitous to proceed like this.
Respectfully,
Westmount, 21 janvier, 2022

Par courriel legal@westmount.org

SUJET:  
Demande de Démolition 1-3 Hillside

Madame Saadi,

Nous sommes les représentants du Syndicat de la copropriété Hillside Condominiums, l’immeuble étant situé au 11 avenue Hillside, celui-ci étant le voisin direct du 1-3 Hillside vis-à-vis duquel il a reçu un avis de démolition daté du 11 janvier 2022. Il est malheureusement prématuré pour nous de se prononcer sur une possible contestation quant à la démolition en ce qu’il lui est nécessaire d’obtenir les détails ci-dessous.

Le 11 Hillside et le 1-3 Hillside possèdent des murs mitoyens ou adjacents sur l’avenue Hillside, d’une manière telle que nous avons un intérêt réel et direct à s’informer quant à la démolition de l’immeuble ainsi qu’aux mesures qui seront prises à cette fin. Aussi, nous sommes actuellement en train de confier un mandat à un expert indépendant afin d’établir l’état de l’immeuble avant puis après les travaux, de manière à ce que tous dommages soient à la charge du propriétaire du 1-3 Hillside.

Ainsi, nous vous saurions gré de nous fournir les renseignements suivants :

- Quelle sera la méthode de démolition employée?
- S’il existe des plans de démolition, en fournir une copie;
- Si des vérifications préalables quant à l’état de l’immeuble situé au 11 Hillside et à sa structure seront effectuées avant la démolition;
- Si le mur du 11 Hillside reste à découvert suivant la démolition, les mesures préventives qui seront entreprises afin d’empêcher toutes infiltrations d’air, d’eau et autres inconvénients, puis les mesures de réparations du mur;
- Quel sera le plan de préservation de l’immeuble situé au 11 Hillside et toutes mesures conservatoires;
- Si au cours de la démolition il sera nécessaire d’utiliser une partie du terrain afin notamment d’y entreposer de la machinerie;
- Si au cours de la démolition, il est prévu que les occupants du 11 Hillside puissent être troublés dans la jouissance de leur propriété d’une manière excessive (tel qu’une coupure d’eau pour plus de 5 heures ou encore une perte d’accès au stationnement pour plus d’une journée);
- Une description du type de construction subséquente, si les plans sont connus, ainsi qu’une indication des marges latérales à prévoir entre le 11 Hillside et le futur immeuble, ainsi que les plans dudit immeuble;

En vous remerciant d’avance pour votre aide et votre collaboration, nous vous prions d’agréer l’expression de nos salutations les meilleures,
Bonjour.

Je vous écris au nom d’une restauration favorable du projet 1-3 Hillside.

Conserver en partie l’Académie d’équitation Mont-Royal construite au début des années 1910 est une idée merveilleuse. Elle améliorera l’aspect résidentiel et local de la communauté de Hillside.

Nous comprenons qu’une démolition partielle est nécessaire et que l’impact sur les services offerts au CHSLD St-Margaret sera minime, voire improbable.

Nous soutenons les efforts de l’entreprise actuelle qui a ciblé et étudié les besoins de l’environnement et de la communauté et nous sommes convaincus qu’ils ont les meilleurs intérêts de toutes les personnes impliquées et de la région environnante.

Nous attendons avec une excitation contenue l’achèvement de ce beau projet.

Cordialement,
This email (including attachments, if any) may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential or protected by solicitor-client privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, please note that any dissemination, distribution, use or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this message in error should notify the sender immediately by telephone or return e-mail, and delete it from his or her computer/system without making a copy. Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this e-mail is prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Devez-vous vraiment imprimer ce courriel?
To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you to show some support for the partial demolition of the building. The new plans look so much better than the abandoned building, the brick is currently in terrible condition. In addition, the building is contaminated and should be demolished asap. It's not great to have this building right next to a school and the children.

Thanks for your time and consideration for this project