



**Subject:** Opposition to proposed road opening through Sandy Hill park - community protest and petition  
**Date:** September 15, 2021

Dear Mayor Watson, City Councillors, and Planning Department staff,

Action Sandy Hill, alongside neighbourhood community members and residents from across Ottawa, have mobilized to tell the City they oppose the proposed road opening through Besserer Park.

On September 9, 2021, over 100 residents gathered (masked and physically distanced) in this Sandy Hill park to protest the proposed road that would reduce public greenspace solely for the purpose of serving three private parking spaces. Children scrawled “Save Besserer Park” in chalk; people of all ages carried posters while singing along to live protest songs, and heard speeches from Action Sandy Hill, Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Horizon Ottawa, and the Greenspace Alliance for Canada’s Capital.

In the days since, over 620 people have [signed our petition](#) demanding the City say **no** to a road through Besserer Park. As if the City’s own supposed prioritization of greenspace and liveable communities is not enough, we believe these two demonstrations of support provide ample reasons for the City to **ensure the road opening application for Besserer Park is denied.**

Shortly before our protest, Action Sandy Hill was informed by city planners (via Councillor Fleury) that “the Owner of the property [at 244 Fountain Place] is currently **considering revising** their development proposal and abandoning the Road Opening application (with no change to Besserer Park” (emphasis our own). The developer, TCU, suggested they would consider a “revised concept with a reduced number of residential units and two parking spaces off of Fountain Place only.”

**While Action Sandy Hill welcomes this update, “considering revising” is not a formal undertaking, and City staff have not yet seen these revised plans from the developer.** Until a formal plan is submitted and the road application is abandoned, Action Sandy Hill and the undersigners of our petition will continue to protest the proposed road opening.

**As communicated in my letter dated September 3, this conversion of public greenspace for private development is unacceptable—in Besserer Park and across our city. The over 600 people who signed our petition compel the City to deny this road opening request and ensure the developer is held accountable to formally abandon its road opening application without further delay.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Khazaeli, PhD  
President, Action Sandy Hill