Dear (elected official),

I am writing to urge you to demonstrate your support for the protection and restoration of one of Canada’s oldest, most historic neighbourhoods in Ottawa’s downtown core, Sandy Hill.

The residents of Sandy Hill and its neighbourhood association, Action Sandy Hill (ASH), have been appealing to all levels of government for many years to take proactive measures as well as remedial actions against demolition-by-neglect of heritage properties, unkept properties and absentee landlords, the proliferation of bunkhouses and unbalanced development, and the loss of greenspace.

Planning and zoning reviews and moratoriums have to date been unsuccessful in stopping rampant unhealthy development. Our city has failed to live up to its own stated priority of improving health and quality of life and has instead favoured non-resident property owners and developers. Sandy Hill is now a neighbourhood in crisis.

I urge you to voice your support for ASH’s position, including the following measures:

* Better development planning:
  + Implement full site control for all new development
  + End the proliferation of bunkhouses and incentivize positive development for all, including students
  + Amend the Sandy Hill Secondary Plan to ensure strategic and sustainable intensification
* Heritage preservation and restoration:
  + End demolition-by-neglect and create incentives for the preservation and restoration of historic properties
  + Create new heritage designations based on the Heritage Inventory Project
* Enforcement of standards and bylaws:
  + Obtain adequate resources for enforcement of by-laws and property standards, and develop an effective strategy for dealing with delinquent landlords
  + Implement a rental property licensing system
* Renewal of public space infrastructure and protection of green space

2018 is a municipal election year. I hope to see these issues addressed in your campaign platform.