

November 1, 2013

Sandy Hill Development Expected to Ease Student Housing Shortage



Concept artist illustration provided by Barry J. Hobin & Associates Architects Inc. Actual may vary - all rights reserved.

Ottawa – Robert Viner and Susan Viner Vered, CEO and COO, respectively, of Viner Assets Inc. (VAI) and Tony DiBiase, principal, CA international, an affiliate of CA Student Living (CASL), VAI’s joint venture partner, are pleased to participate in a public consultation at the Sandy Hill Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on November 6 to present and answer questions on their proposed student housing project on a one-acre site at the corner of Laurier Avenue and Friel Street. The meeting is being arranged by the City of Ottawa’s Planning department and will be facilitated by City Councillor Mathieu Fleury.

This redevelopment will replace the existing six buildings of which almost all the occupants are students. The site has been owned by VAI and related companies for almost 60 years. The project will be co-developed by VAI and CASL independently of the University of Ottawa, and will provide students with more housing options close to the University.

“This project is different from the kinds of conversions that concern many in Sandy Hill – it’s not at the center of the family neighborhoods but rather on the main thoroughfare of Sandy Hill. It

will be a purpose-built student housing facility that is safe, secure with 24-hour surveillance and student life counselors, professionally managed, fully furnished with a rich amenity mix of fitness, study, social spaces and state-of-the-art wireless internet,” Mr. Viner said.

“This building will be a turn-key alternative for students and their parents to consider,” he added. “For the students, it will be self-contained in meeting most of their day-to-day needs outside of classes. With approximately 170 apartments, the project will likely lessen the demand for rooms in converted Sandy Hill family homes, and reduce what has become a major irritant to Sandy Hill families.”

The project, a block and a half from the main campus, proposes a nine storey building on a one-acre site including a ground floor with retail, amenities and management functions as well as ample bicycle parking and underground parking for 62 spaces.

Designed by Barry J Hobin & Associates Architects, the project’s design is the result of an extensive process including consultation with student housing industry experts and independent heritage consultants. The project’s design blends the heritage of the historic neighborhood with modern architectural elements while incorporating high sustainability standards and green features to create a new landmark for Sandy Hill. Engineering and construction will be lead by Graham Bird, president of the project management firm, GBA.

Once built, CASL will operate the building, a company with extensive expertise in developing, managing and operating purpose-built student housing in over twenty markets. CASL was carefully selected as a joint venture partner by VAI, after a search in Canada and the United States, because of their innovative and dynamic track record in developing and managing in diverse markets.

Pending City of Ottawa approvals, the team is working towards a construction completion date of spring 2016.

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***Viner Assets Inc.** is a real estate investment and development company, with a portfolio of real estate holdings in Ottawa. VAI’s roots in Ottawa go back to the early 1950s.*

***CA Student Living** is a Chicago-based real estate investment, development and management firm, with extensive experience in student housing in more than 20 markets in the United States, Latin America and now Canada.*

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