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The Cecil Hotel will be demolished to make way for an underground parkade.

Cecil Hotel deal approved

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Council has approved the controversial purchase of the Cecil Hotel.

The city will pay 10.9 million dollars for the hotel and the land.

The property will likely become a parkade.

Despite the concerns of some aldermen, the motion passed easily in a vote of 11-4.

Ward 7 Alderman Druh Farrell supported the purchase.

"The use of that building has been a major impediment for every neighbour around there."

But Ward 13 Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart was against it, saying it wouldn't have been a problem if the laws were properly enforced.

"In my view, what we've done is spend 10.9 million dollars to get rid of a social problem... the private sector could do this."

The Cecil has belonged to the Silberman's family for 40 years.

Sam Silberman says his business became a victim of the growing drug problem in the city.

Council did discuss saving the hotel building but concluded that much of the heritage value had been lost in a fire in 1982.

Demolition of the building is expected in the spring of 2009.

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