



March 15, 2016

To: All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Richmond Hill Town Council – Ontario Municipal Board Reform

Richmond Hill Town Council, at its meeting held on February 22, 2016, adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas the Town of Richmond Hill has dedicated a good deal of time, and resources, developing an Official Plan that guides and directs the future development of our community and accurately reflects the expectations of the citizens of Richmond Hill; and

Whereas the Town of Richmond Hill also spends a good deal of resources defending the Official Plan and our Zoning By-laws at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB); and

Whereas the Town's Official Plan is ultimately approved by the Ontario Provincial Government; and

Whereas it is within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to rule on Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that better the community or fit within the vision of the Town of Richmond Hill Official Plan; and

Whereas it is also within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to deny Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that do not better the community or do not fit within the vision of the Town of Richmond Hill's Official Plan; and

Whereas land use planning decisions may be appealed to the OMB, an unelected, appointed body that is not accountable to the residents of Richmond Hill;

Now therefore be it resolved that Richmond Hill Town Council requests the Government of Ontario thoroughly review the land use appeals process and develop a process for such appeals that recognizes and supports the rights of municipalities to make decisions that adhere to Municipally approved Official Plans, local community needs and aspirations, reflected in those plans; and

(continued)



Be it further resolved that the regulated timelines before an appeal is possible based on a "failure to make a decision" by the municipality be significantly extended thus ensuring that:

1. Adequate time be given for proper and meaningful negotiations between the Municipality and Applicant with the goal of resolving planning disagreements
2. Applicants are prevented from appealing to the OMB before a thorough negotiation process has been exercised to come to a successful outcome

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party; the Honourable Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party; all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; the Regional Municipality of York and all York Region Municipalities; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration."

In accordance with Council's directive, the foregoing Council resolution in this regard has been forwarded to your attention.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Clerk at 905-771-8800.

Sincerely,



Gloria Collier
Acting Town Clerk

Copy: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario