



May 30, 2017

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins

Dear Councillor Shiner, Chair and Planning and Growth Management Committee Members

RE: PG21.5 Work Plan for the Review of the Development Review Process

This item provides a work plan to implement City Council's direction from January 2017 to conduct a review of the Development Review Process. As residents and ratepayers we support the overall goal of the Review "to examine opportunities to streamline and simplify the development review process and to ensure consistency across Divisions in reporting on their development application activity", we do however have serious concerns about the complete absence of reference to resident engagement or public involvement.

The development review process includes a wide variety of applications from committee of adjustment to zoning by-law amendments and official plan amendments. However recent "improvement" exercises have not always benefitted residents. An example which was brought to this committee at the previous meeting as a "demonstration", i.e. not for approval) is the Committee of Adjustment Online Research Request Portal Summary. As explained in our submission at that time (see attached) the service would benefit applicants and their agents, not residents.

In addition, the report mentions that "As part of the recent budget announcement, the Province will be creating a Land Development Facilitation Team to work with the development industry and municipalities to review the development process to determine ways to streamline the process. The City's end to end review will provide an opportunity for input into this process and aligns the City with the Province's intent."

So again, residents need to have a voice in the City's (as well as the Province's) review of the Development Review Process. It is critically important that the desire for efficiency does not extinguish important opportunities for residents input.

Yours truly,

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Attachment: FoNTRA letter re PG19.1 Demonstration of Committee of Adjustment Online Research Request Portal Summary

Cc: Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
John W. Livey, Deputy City Manager (Cluster B)
Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager (Cluster A)
Roberto Rossini, Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Walberg, City Solicitor, Legal Services
Neil Cresswell, Director of Community Planning, Etobicoke York District

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.