



LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.
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30 April 2020

VIA EMAIL:

Councillor_colle8@toronto.ca

Dear Councillor Colle:

CC20.2 City of Toronto Response and the Ongoing Management of Emergency City Business During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We strongly recommend that Community Council and City Council continue to provide approval of development applications, with assurance of public input, and NOT delegate this to staff.

The above-referenced CC20.2 report provides a comprehensive summary of the City's coordinated response to the COVID-19 emergency across all areas of the City's activities. It also outlines the City's proposed approach to recovery and rebuilding.

We sincerely thank the Mayor, Councillors, and staff for their strong leadership, dedicated management and effective operation further to the three strategic priorities which have guided all aspects of decision making: save lives; prevent overwhelming Toronto's healthcare systems; and protect the social and financial economies.

As you may be aware, we previously made known to the Premier concerns about how making residential construction an essential service opens a significant risk of COVID-19 infection to workers. The nature of construction sites that have various trades working often in close proximity to one another, makes physical distancing very challenging. On construction sites it is difficult to follow the hygiene practices recommended to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the Province has extended the hours for construction, violating the City's Noise Bylaw and creating additional excessive noise for surrounding residents. We continue to be concerned about these matters as we observe development sites in our neighbourhoods.

A number of people, including the Premier, have commented that imposing the lock-down was easy, in comparison to the difficult task of releasing it. In that regard we are already seeing interest groups coming forward and asking for special consideration related to the importance of their role in the economy.

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization ("LPRO") is an incorporated non-profit association founded in 1987, representing member households from Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue.

<https://lpro.wordpress.com>

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The last paragraph of the report indicates that, *staff are reviewing whether additional delegated authorities are required in order to accelerate work to be done by the City*. This appears to be a red flag to Council that development-related interests will be asking the City to restore services related to development applications, including accepting new planning and building permit applications, and delegating Council's authority to process development applications. We would be especially concerned if delegation to staff of approval of development applications was being considered. It is essential that Community Council and Council continue to provide such approval, with assurance of public input.

We strongly support the City's Recovery and Rebuilding proposal and its commitment to consultation with the public, and reporting by staff on recovery strategies regularly for council approval.

Sincerely,

Maureen Kapral
Vice-President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization

c:

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