



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Councillor Norm Kelly
Chair
Planning and Growth Management Committee

Re: Review of *Employment Areas* Policies in the Official Plan

Dear Councillor Kelly and members of Committee

A critical goal of Toronto's Official Plan is to accommodate substantial growth in jobs in those areas of the City designated and protected as *Employment Areas*.

In order to support the prime economic function of *Employment Areas*, the Plan currently provides for restaurants and small scale retail stores and services that serve area businesses and their workers in *Employment Areas*.

The Official Plan also recognizes some other uses were historically permitted in *Employment Areas* under the former municipal Official Plans that do not directly support the prime economic function of *Employment Areas*. These uses are provided for only in certain locations given the potential for adverse impacts on *Employment Area* businesses. These other uses include large scale, stand-alone retail stores, places of worship, post-secondary institutions and recreation and entertainment facilities.

Development pressures for new retail stores and other uses within *Employment Areas* have been and continue to be very strong and threaten the City's ability to maintain and protect *Employment Areas* for their intended prime economic function. Additionally, the OMB has issued decisions that permit some retail development in *Employment Areas* that is neither large in scale, nor intended to serve area businesses and workers.

In order to protect *Employment Areas* for their intended economic function consistent with Official Plan goals and the Province's Growth Plan, I am requesting that the City Planning Division be directed to review Official Plan policies respecting *Employment Areas* and provisions for the other permitted uses such as retail and places of worship.

I would respectfully request that this direction to staff be considered on May 6, 2009 by the Planning and Growth Management Committee as follows:

1. That the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division be requested to review *Employment Area* Policy 4.6.1 of the Official Plan with respect to the provision for "restaurants and small scale stores and services that serve area businesses and

workers” in order to assess the impact of these provisions on the prime economic function of *Employment Areas*, and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

2. That the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division be requested to review *Employment Area Policy 4.6.2* of the Official Plan in order to assess the impact of this policy (which permits at certain locations uses such as places of worship, recreation and community colleges) on the prime economic function of *Employment Areas*, and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.
3. That the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division be requested to review *Employment Area Policy 4.6.3* of the Official Plan in order to assess the impact of this policy (which permits at certain locations subject to conditions, major retail uses) on the prime economic function of *Employment Areas*, and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.
4. That the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division be requested to report out separately for the Liberty Village and South of Eastern Employment Districts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor, Ward 30