

September 15, 2011

Councillor Ainslie
Chair, Government Management Committee
City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C52
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Ainslie:

GM 7.5 - Declaration as Surplus - Untravelled Public Highways on Plan of Subdivision M-1859, Mockingbird Crescent, Jacobs Gate and the One Foot Reserve North of Mockingbird Crescent

The Connaught Campus of Sanofi Pasteur is one of Toronto's most important employment sites. In addition to being one of Toronto's most important national headquarters located outside downtown, it is an international centre of research and advanced manufacturing. It is subject to intense operational scrutiny by regulatory authorities in Canada, United States and Europe. It is one of the top ten non-financial employers in the private sector in Toronto. And one of our largest exporters – over 95% of the products produced there gets shipped out of the country.

The campus pre-dates all the development in the area and the property under review by the General Management Committee once belonged to the company prior to an anticipated medium density residential development.

There are two stages to the City's review of the proposed expansion at the site: the surplus lands designation and a full planning review process for rezoning and site plan approval. Any issues with respect to the site and the community will be properly dealt with through the planning approval process.

It is important to Toronto's economy to act prudently but expeditiously with such requests by any business, but especially by a major international company:

- A large number of very high quality jobs are at stake (growth on top of 1,100 versus no growth and maybe decline) at a time when our unemployment rate is unacceptably too high
- The continuing presence of a long-standing, globally renowned research facilities is an excellent advertisement for Toronto's capabilities
- The global reputation of Toronto as a good place to do business – large companies expect government to be prudent and fair and open – and efficient and timely.
- Increased property taxes – probably in the millions
- The training and skills development 'pull' of such an advanced industry benefits all companies in the City and beyond

I request that this Committee move quickly to approve the surplus designation and to allow the proper planning review of the Company's plans to take place.

Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development and Culture Committee
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 37

c.c. Councillor Vincent Crisanti
Councillor John Filion
Councillor Doug Ford
Councillor Pam McConnell
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Merle MacDonald