



## Councillor Josh Matlow

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Planning & Growth Management Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Bill 139 - Proposed Amendments to the Planning Act and Province's Land Use Planning Appeal System**

October 11, 2017

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the Staff recommendations accompanying *PG 23.7 Bill 139 - Proposed Amendments to the Planning Act and Province's Land Use Planning Appeal System*. In particular, it is important for City Council to advise the Province that it supports restricting applications to amend new secondary plans for five years, unless permitted by a Council, as contained in recommendation 12.

I commend the provincial government for eliminating the Ontario Municipal Board and replacing it with the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal through the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act*. The provincial bill follows a February 2012 motion moved by Councillor Wong-Tam and myself asking for the removal of provincial oversight on planning matters. This motion was overwhelmingly supported by Council. While the bill does not go as far as Council requested, it will fundamentally improve the planning process by giving the City and local residents more control over development decisions.

While I support and applaud many of the initiatives contained in the Act, including the elimination of 'de novo' hearings, the provision of free representation to local residents, and requiring the new Tribunal to send "significant new information" arising from a hearing back to Council for re-evaluation, I am concerned that the limit of only two years on Secondary Plan amendments is too short. That's why I was pleased that Council supported my motion amending *PG 16.6 Response to Provincial Consultation on Reforming the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)* extending the restriction period on applications to amend new Secondary Plans from two years to five years.

Secondary Plans can include extensive neighbourhood studies, requiring significant Staff time and public input. For example, Council requested Staff to start the Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan review on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The final recommendations are expected to come to this November's meeting of Planning and Growth Management Committee – almost two and a half years later.

I am hopeful that, with Council's request, the Province will extend the restriction period on applications to amend new Secondary Plans from two years to five years to reflect the significant Staff and community resources that go into the development of Secondary Plans

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Matlow', written over a horizontal line.

Josh Matlow  
Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 22 – St. Paul's