



PH19.3.1

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December 8, 2020

Via Email

Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair Deputy Mayor Bailão, Vice Chair Councillor Fletcher, and Councillors:

Re: Item PH19.3 – New User Fee for Employment Areas Conversion Requests

We are responding to the request for public input advertised in the trade publication *Novae Res Urbis* (NRU) on November 20, 2020.

We are writing to express support for an *Employment Areas* Conversion Request User Fee as we believe this to be an appropriate administrative measure.

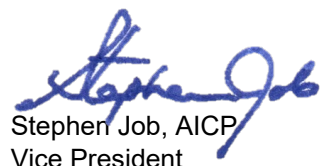
Tenblock has been a participant in the land use planning process in Toronto for over fifty years and currently has multiple planning applications in progress. We support greater staffing and funding at the City Planning Division as too many public servants are overworked and unable to respond to the complexity and volume of development applications in a timely manner. In turn, this resource issue delays and increases the cost of new housing creation which is detrimental to applicants and the general public alike.

An *Employment Areas* Conversion Request is a complex planning application made for the direct benefit the applicant, and is not a simple administrative matter; it requires detailed, inter-disciplinary review from City Planning. We support the proposed *Employment Areas* Conversion Request User Fee on the basis that this targeted revenue will allow for increased staffing resources and timely, competent processing of these important applications. The fee should also deter superficial applications that consume resources but benefit no one.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Tenblock



Stephen Job, AICP
Vice President

SJ/

cc: J. Cantos, Project Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Policy & Analysis, City Planning, City of Toronto
C. Heydorn, Senior Planner, Strategic Initiatives, Policy & Analysis, City Planning, City of Toronto