

October 10, 2012

Mayor Rob Ford
The City Hall of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
TORONTO, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Ford and Toronto City Council:

RE: ITEM PG18.7 - DRAFT
CITY-WIDE ZONING BY-LAW ON THE OCTOBER 12, 2012 MEETING AGENDA.

Dear Mayor Ford and Toronto City Council:

My name is Tom Quinn. I am an ordained minister with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. My title is Regional Director (Bishop) for the Western Ontario District and, in particular I, along with my colleague Rev. Cal Anthony of the Eastern Ontario District, oversee about 100 churches in the City of Toronto.

Let me begin by thanking you for the courageous and astute leadership that you and other city councillors have given to Toronto during these challenging days.

I commend those involved in formulating the proposed Zoning By-law for the City of Toronto. It is a massive document and it is obvious that their efforts involved many, many hours of thought and work. I fully realize that City Hall is working to make Toronto a better to place to live and work.

However, I would like to register a couple of concerns I have relating to some of the proposed rezoning issues that affect a good number of our churches. I appreciated the time that Councillor Peter Milczyn recently took to listen and to speak with me regarding some of these concerns.

Firstly, I am concerned with the current proposed legislation as it is written since it would gravely impact the quality of life for many of our immigrant and cultural churches. By quality of life, I am referring to their ability to worship in their own language and cultural expression. Most of them do not have the financial wherewithal to purchase property for a place of worship in most areas of Toronto. When they do finally gather enough funds for a 35% down payment, often the only affordable property is in an area zoned as "light-industrial".

Secondly, for most new people to Canada, a place of worship is an integral part of their lives. Whether Christian, Hindu, Sikh, or Muslim they are accustomed to worshiping on a weekly basis and in a building/place that is set apart as a place of worship.

Thirdly, I need to speak up for many of our church leaders who are not able to express themselves easily in the English language.

My office is being flooded with calls from concerned church leaders on behalf of their congregations over some of the snippets and excerpts from the Zoning By-law proposed rezoning. I will be attending an upcoming meeting of concerned church and religious leaders who also are being inundated with calls from concerned pastors and parishioners to address this growing concern.

Because of these matters, I wish to officially register our concerns over the Draft Zoning By-law, in its present form, on behalf of The Pentecostals Assemblies of Canada.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. My desire is that both sides could come to an understanding of each other's concerns and work toward an agreeable and proper solution.

Sincerely,



Rev. Tom Quinn
Regional Director GTA
WESTERN ONTARIO DISTRICT - PAOC

TQ/lis

TQL - 10/12

c.c. Councillor Ana Bailao
Councillor Peter Milczyn
Councillor Frank Di Giorgio
Councillor Karen Stintz
Councillor Adam Vaughan
Councillor Gary Grawford