

## CITY C'ERK'S OFFICE SECRETARIAT SECTION

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March 1, 2013

## **SENT VIA E-MAIL**

Mayor and Members of Council City of Toronto c/o City Clerk's Office 10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall 100 Queen St W Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council:

Re: PG22.3 - Official Plan Five Year Review: Official Plan Amendment to Adopt New Heritage and Public Realm Policies

We have been retained as counsel to Tyndale University College & Seminary ("Tyndale"), the owner of 3377 Bayview Avenue.

We are writing to express our concerns with the proposed Official Plan Amendment respecting heritage resources and the public realm, specifically as they relate to places of worship.

Tyndale has monitored the Official Plan Review process with respect to heritage and public realm policies and is concerned that the proposed policies in the Official Plan Amendment do not sufficiently acknowledge the unique spiritual and liturgical aspects of places of worship which the City regards as having heritage value.

In that respect, we were disappointed that the draft Official Plan Amendment which City Planning staff presented to the Planning and Growth Management Committee at its meeting of February 28th, 2013 contains only one reference to heritage places of worship in a sidebar to the main policies of the Amendment. This one reference is made in connection with the *Ontario Heritage Toolkit: Heritage Places of Worship* (the "Toolkit"), a document which Tyndale believes takes steps towards understanding and promoting heritage conservation strategies which acknowledge the unique issues for faith groups. In that regard, the Toolkit direction that objectives of heritage conservation and protection should be considered along with the religious needs of a faith group on a case-by-case basis is a step in the right direction. Despite the Committee's amendment to staff's recommendations that the sidebar be revised to direct staff to develop a protocol for these issues, the proposed Official Plan Amendment does not

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incorporate many of the conservation strategies and directions of the Toolkit as Official Plan policies.

Accordingly, we are registering these concerns with this proposed Official Plan Amendment, and respectfully request that City Council not adopt the Planning & Growth Management Committee recommendations regarding this Item and to direct staff to consult further with the faith regarding the development of Official Plan policies regarding the heritage-related issues as they relate to places of worship.

We continue to welcome the opportunity to meet with City Planning staff to discuss the concerns raised in this letter.

Please provide the undersigned with all Notices in respect of decisions made regarding this Item.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned in order to discuss our concerns with the Official Plan Amendment.

Yours truly,

Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP

Mark/A. Piel MAP/ss

c.c. Tyndale University College & Seminary Joseph Debono, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP

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