December 5, 2013

The Mayor and Members of Council
Corporation of the City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
13th Floor
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

Re: Proposed Amendment No. 231 to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto
279 Rexdale Boulevard, former City of Etobicoke
Zane Properties (1226567 Ontario Inc.)
Our File: PN 5151

Dear Mayor Ford and Members of Council:

On behalf of our Client, Zane Properties (1226567 Ontario Inc.), the writer appeared before the Planning and Growth Management Committee during the course of the Statutory Public Meeting held on November 21, 2013, in relation to the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan for the City of Toronto and the land use policies and designations applicable to Employment Lands. By way of our written and oral submissions, we requested that the Planning and Growth Management Committee modify the Motion concerning the recommendation of Official Plan Amendment No. 231 to Council for adoption insofar as was necessary to provide for the designation of the property referred to as 279 Rexdale Boulevard and the properties immediately adjacent thereto within the General Employment Area land use classification. Copies of our previous written submissions to the Planning and Growth Management Committee and City Staff in relation to the designation of the aforementioned property and adjacent lands are attached hereto for your review and consideration.

Designation of the lands in question within the Core Employment Area land use classification, as is presently proposed by way of Amendment No. 231, is not appropriate to allow for the ongoing reinvestment in the structure located at 279 Rexdale Boulevard in concert with the use of the adjacent lands, namely 269 and 285 Rexdale Boulevard, for retail and service commercial purposes. Given the age structure, which was originally erected and utilized as a banquet hall, the site is not well suited to the introduction of those forms of land use envisaged under the Core Employment Area classification.

In contrast, designation of the lands within the General Employment Area classification will foster a positive atmosphere for the continued private sector investment. Such investment is necessary and essential to ensure the redevelopment, maintenance and reinforcement of this distinct node of quasi commercial-industrial properties as an integral component of the Employment District situated to the east of Martin Grove Road. It is further noted that the designation of the lands in question within the General Employment land use classification will not compromise the integrity of the adjacent properties designated within the Core Employment land use classification nor prejudice the use of those areas for such purposes.
Mayor & Members of Council
Official Plan Amendment No. 231
Our File: PN 5151

December 5, 2013

In summary, the requested designation of the lands in question within the General Employment Area land use classification will not undermine the supply and/or use of employment lands in this area. Rather, designation of the subject properties within the General Employment Area land use classification will recognize the existing use of the subject lands and associated buildings consistent with the established function of Rexdale Boulevard immediately to the east of Martin Grove Road. It is further submitted that the designation of the subject lands within the General Employment Area land use classification will serve as a catalyst for private sector investment leading to the rejuvenation of this section of Rexdale Boulevard.

Accordingly, we are hereby requesting that, prior to adoption of Amendment No. 231 to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto, Council direct that Amendment No. 231 be modified by designating the aforementioned property, namely 279 Rexdale Boulevard, and the adjacent lands, namely 269 and 285 Rexdale Boulevard, immediately to the east of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road in the former City of Etobicoke, within the General Employment Area classification. To assist Council in the review and consideration of this request, we have prepared a draft motion for your review and consideration. The draft motion includes a copy of Map 11 to Amendment No. 231 which delineates the subject property in red.

In closing, we trust that Council will give due consideration to our Client’s request and direct that the subject property be designated within the General Employment Area land use classification by way of the proposed Amendment No. 231 to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto. Should you have any questions in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,
McDermott & Associates Limited

John McDermott, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Principal Planner
encl. (2)

copy to: Councillor Peter Milczyn
Chair, Planning & Growth Management Committee, City of Toronto

Councillor Doug Ford
Ward 2, Etobicoke North, City of Toronto

Councillor Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development Committee, City of Toronto

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly,
Ward 40, Scarborough - Agincourt, City of Toronto

Mr. John Livvy
Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto

Mr. Al Wakeel
Zane Properties (1226567 Ontario Inc.)

Mr. David White, Q.C.
Devry Smith Frank LLP
Draft Motion

That Map 11 to the proposed Amendment No. 231 to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto, as recommended for adoption by the Planning and Growth Management Committee, be revised insofar as is necessary to designate those lands located to the south of Rexdale Boulevard, east of Martin Grove Road, municipal addresses of 269, 279 and 285 Rexdale Boulevard, as delineated in red on Map 11 attached hereto as Schedule "A" and by this reference forming part of this Motion, within the General Employment Area land use classification.

Moved By: .................................................................

Seconded By: ............................................................

Date: .................................................................
This is Schedule "A" to a Motion to Modify Map 11
Forming Part Of The Proposed Amendment No. 231
To The Official Plan Of The City Of Toronto
269, 279 and 285 Rexdale Boulevard

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Boundary of Lands to be Designated within the General Employment Area
Land Use Classification under Amendment No. 231 to the Official Plan for the
City of Toronto
November 18, 2013

The Chair and Members  
Planning & Growth Management Committee  
City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
10th Floor  
West Tower  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. Nancy Martins,  
Administrative Secretary

Re: Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review  
Employment Areas - Land Use Policies and Designations / City of Toronto Official Plan  
279 Rexdale Boulevard, former City of Etobicoke  
Our File: PN 5151

Dear Ms. Martins:

We understand that, pursuant to Section 26(3) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, the Planning and Growth Management Committee will convene a Special Public Meeting on November 21, 2013, to consider a proposed amendment to the Official Plan for the City of Toronto. The proposed amendment follows from the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the land use policies and designations applicable to Employment Areas. By way of this submission, the writer hereby requests to be listed as a deputation to appear before the Committee on behalf of our Client, Zane Properties (1226567 Ontario Inc.), the owner of those lands generally described as forming part of Lots 27 and 28 of Concession One, Fronting the Humber, in the former City of Etobicoke, now in the City of Toronto, municipal address of 279 Rexdale Boulevard.

We enclose herewith a copy of our previous submission of September 11, 2013, addressed to Mr. Paul Bain, in relation to the designation of the subject lands and the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of Employment Lands in the City of Toronto. It is understood from our review of the proposed amendment that the subject lands are to be designated within the Core Employment Area classification. On behalf of our Client, we respectfully request that the Planning and Growth Management Committee direct that the lands referred to as 279 Rexdale Boulevard be designated within the General Employment classification, that is a land use classification which more appropriately responds to the established use of both the subject property and surrounding lands. The planning rationale and basis of this request are set forth in detail in the aforementioned submission of September 11, 2013.

In conclusion and in accordance with the requirements of Sections 17(23) and 17(35) of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, c. P. 13, as amended, this will also confirm our request for Notice of Adoption and Notice of any Approvals concerning the proposed Amendment to the Employment Area land use policies and designations arising out of the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan. Should you have any questions in relation to our request to appear before the Planning and Growth Management Committee on November 21, 2013, or the request for Notice of Adoption and any Approvals of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.
Ms. Nancy Martins
Our File: PN 5151

November 18, 2013

Sincerely yours,
McDermott & Associates Limited

John McDermott, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Principal Planner

copy to: Mr. Al Wakeel
Zane Properties (1226567 Ontario Inc.)

Mr. David White, Q.C.
Devry Smith Frank LLP
September 11, 2013

Corporation of the City of Toronto
Metro Hall
22nd Floor
55 John Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

Attention: Mr. Paul Bain
Project Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Policy and Analysis

Re: Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the City of Toronto Official Plan
279 Rexdale Boulevard, Former City of Etobicoke
Our File: PN 5151

Dear Mr. Bain:

We have been retained by Zane Properties, 1226567 Ontario Inc., to assist in the review and consideration of the policy directions now emerging from the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan as it applies to the area in the vicinity of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road. Our Client is the owner of those lands generally described as forming part of Lots 27 and 28 of Concession One, Fronting the Humber, in the former City of Etobicoke, now in the City of Toronto, municipal address of 279 Rexdale Boulevard.

On behalf of our Client, we are requesting that the property located at 279 Rexdale Boulevard, together with the adjacent lands presently developed for retail and service commercial purposes, be designated within the General Employment land use classification as outlined in the draft policy paper to be considered by the Planning and Growth Management Committee during the course of the meeting scheduled for September 12, 2013. To assist you in the review and consideration of this request, we offer the following comments in relation to the existing use of the lands, the contextual setting of the property, the current land use planning framework which governs the use and development of lands in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road, and, the future directions now being proposed through the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review.

1. Site Characteristics

The subject lands encompass approximately 2.38 hectares (i.e. 5.88 acres) with a frontage of approximately 200 metres (i.e. 660 feet) adjacent the southerly limit of Rexdale Boulevard and 17.3 metres on Martin Grove Road (i.e. 57 feet). The property is presently developed for the purposes of an office - warehouse type structure having a gross floor area of approximately 8817 square metres (i.e. 94,914 square feet). The building, which was erected for the purposes of a convention centre and furniture manufacturing establishment circa 1960, is currently under lease to Value Village Stores Inc.

Value Village Stores Inc. is a privately held for profit thrift store chain offering second hand merchandise for sale to the general public. The facility located at 279 Rexdale Road is presently used for the purposes of offices and as a distribution centre supplying various retail locations throughout Ontario and Eastern Canada.
The office portion of the structure, being the former convention centre which represents approximately 20 percent of the gross floor area, is situated in the more north-westerly portion of the building. The shipping, receiving and processing facilities, which are accessible from both Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road, occupy the more southerly and easterly portions of the building.

Today the structure located at 279 Rexdale Boulevard is no longer well suited to large scale industrial uses by reason of both size and location. As a result, a need exists to provide for the effective re-use and renewal of the building through the designation of the lands in a manner which provides for a mixture of both retail and service commercial functions in association with various light manufacturing, processing and fabricating uses.

2. Contextual Setting

To assist you in the review and consideration of our Client’s request, an aerial view illustrating the pattern of land use and development adjacent the north and south limits of Rexdale Boulevard, from the westerly limits of Martin Grove Road to Brydon Drive on the south, and adjacent the east and west limits of Martin Grove Road, from the northerly limits of Rexdale Boulevard to Bethridge Road on the south, is attached hereto as Appendix “A1”. Reference should also be made to Appendix “A2” wherein a description of the existing use of each of the non-residential properties in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard is provided for your review and information. The information provided by way of this submission is based upon field observations undertaken by the writer during August of 2013.

The lands under the ownership of our Client are situated immediately to the south-west of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road. The land uses present in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road and our Client’s property are distinctly different in scale and form from the areas to the south and north, to the east and west of Martin Grove Road. Typically, the properties adjacent this section of Rexdale Boulevard are smaller in area and are developed for a mixture of retail and service commercial functions and institutional land uses. The uses present in this area include restaurants, financial establishments, places of worship, storage facilities, and automotive sales, service and rental establishments, that is uses which serve the general public.

To the west of our Client’s lands, is the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road. The lands adjacent this intersection are presently developed for a range of retail and service commercial functions which include a bank, various motor vehicle related uses and other service commercial uses inclusive of eating establishments which are not exclusively devoted to the businesses within the Employment Area but which also cater to the needs of the general public.

Directly opposite 279 Rexdale Boulevard, adjacent the more northerly limits of Rexdale Boulevard, the uses present include an automotive dealership, a place of worship, a large self serve storage facility and the site of Plastipak Industries. To the south-east of 279 Rexdale Boulevard the retail and service commercial uses include the sites of a Swiss Chalet and Harvey’s restaurant, a Midas Muffler automotive service establishment and an Ali Baba’s Middle Eastern Cuisine restaurant.

To the immediate south of our Client’s lands, adjacent the easterly limits of Martin Grove Road, is the building previously occupied by Howell Stamping (1271 Martin Grove Road). The structure, having an approximate area of 5865 square metres (i.e. 63,135 square feet), is vacant and listed for sale or lease.
3. Approved Official Plan for the City of Toronto

Under the approved Official Plan for the City of Toronto, the area in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road is designated within the Employment land use classification. A copy of an extract of Map 13, the Land Use Plan attached to and forming part of the approved Official Plan for the City of Toronto, wherein the general location of the subject lands is identified, is attached as Appendix "B" to this submission.

As stated in Section 4.6, the introduction to the Employment Area policies, of the approved Official Plan for the City of Toronto..."a broad and inclusive approach to employment uses in Employment Areas is needed for the City’s economic future. Uses that support the prime economic function of Employment Areas, such as parks, small scale retail stores and services to meet the daily needs of business and employees, workplace daycare and restaurants, must also be readily accessible within Employment Areas. Uses that detract from the economic function of these lands will not be permitted to locate in Employment Areas. By way of reference to Section 4.6.1 of the Official Plan, it is further noted that Employment Areas are generally defined as places of business and economic activity, and, that the permitted uses include offices, manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, research and development facilities, utilities, media facilities, parks, hotels, ancillary retail outlets, and, restaurants and small scale stores and services that serve area businesses and workers.

The effect of the foregoing policies has been to recognize and/or to allow for the introduction of a variety of non-industrial forms of land use in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard. The result has been the gradual adoption of this area by retail and service commercial uses, offices and other non-industrial, non-employment sensitive land uses and activities. Today, such uses co-exist in reasonably close proximity to warehouse and transportation related facilities and other light manufacturing and fabrication uses consistent with the intent of the approved Official Plan for the City of Toronto now in effect.


Based upon our review of the policy framework now being advance for Employment Lands as part of the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review, we understand that the City is proposing to designate our Client’s lands, and the adjacent commercial properties in the immediate vicinity thereof, within the Core Employment Area classification. Under the proposed policy framework, certain of the land uses which now exist in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard will not be recognized as permitted uses and activities. It is further submitted that the effect of the proposed policy framework will be to limit the range of uses permitted within the structure situated on our Client’s lands, through reference to the zoning by-law, to the degree that the opportunity for the sequential use of the existing building will not be representative of a viable economic opportunity.

It follows that, given the limitations upon the opportunity for re-use and renewal of older, underutilized buildings in this area, the designation of the lands within the Core Employment land use classification will result in buildings remaining vacant and possibly falling into a state of disrepair. Under such a scenario, the effect would be to create pressure for the re-designation of the lands to facilitate redevelopment of the properties for uses and activities which may not be compatible with the employment area function and which will further undermine the integrity of the balance of the Core Employment lands in this area.
5. **Concluding Remarks**

Our Client is requesting that 279 Rexdale Boulevard, and the adjoining lands presently utilized for retail and service related commercial purposes in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road, be designated in the General Employment land use classification. Designation of our Client’s lands and the adjoining properties, which front upon Rexdale Boulevard and which are now utilized for commercial and service related purposes, within the General Employment classification will recognize the differing priorities for the use of lands in this area relative to the designation of the adjacent lands within the Core Employment Area classification. Recognition of this established node or cluster of smaller retail and service commercial functions in association is appropriate from the perspective that today such uses not only serve businesses and employees throughout the Core Employment lands but also the general public.

Through the designation of 279 Rexdale Boulevard and the adjacent properties within the General Employment classification, the necessary degree of flexibility will exist to provide for the sequential use of the subject property as part of a comprehensive renewal plan. Such an approach will ensure that the economic function of both this site and the adjoining properties is maintained and reinforced by providing for a range of retail and service commercial uses in harmony with light manufacturing, research, warehouse, wholesale distribution and transportation uses. It is further submitted that the designation of the area in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road within the General Employment land use classification will not undermine the overall function of this relatively large employment area which extends from the Macdonald Cartier Freeway in the south to the area north of Rexdale Boulevard and the tributary streams of the Humber River watershed to Highway No. 427 on the west.

As is apparent from the analysis of the land uses in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard, pressure exists to provide for the introduction of uses not contemplated under the Core Employment classification and which do not contribute to the sense of a healthy and vibrant employment area. There is evidence to suggest that underutilized/vacant structures, no longer well suited to manufacturing concerns by reason of their age and/or size of the building, have been adopted by either non-employment uses or uses which may be described as lower order land uses. In the absence of a change in the policy directions applicable to our Client’s lands and the adjacent properties now utilized for a variety of different land uses, the economic challenges now faced by this area will simply increase over time and be effective to further erode the economic viability of the area north and south of Rexdale Boulevard in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard.

From a land use planning and economic perspective, the effect of recognizing this area as a distinct node or cluster in which a somewhat broader range of employment land uses are permitted is clearly preferable to the current policy directions which have been effective to allow for the intermixing of various forms of land use in a somewhat indiscriminate and ad hoc manner. Designation of this area within the General Employment classification will foster a positive environment for re-investment in underutilized buildings and structures which are no longer well suited to the scale required for today’s larger industrial operations while providing for maintenance of the overall employment function of the area.

At the same time, designation of our Client’s lands within the General Employment Area classification will serve as an incentive to future private sector initiatives directed towards the renovation and renewal of existing structures and facades. In turn, continued private sector investment will promote an enhanced streetscape and an attractive and distinct node within this Employment Area. It follows that through a pro-
active approach, which is founded in sound planning principles and which recognizes the economic difficulties now affecting the future disposition of the lands and buildings in this area, it will be possible to set the stage for the renewal and revitalization of this section of Rexdale Boulevard in a manner which contributes to the overall economic viability of the area while maintaining the rudimentary function of the employment district as a whole.

In contrast, the alternative now being proposed is to designate the lands within the Core Employment Area classification which is effective to largely restrict the use of this site and the adjoining properties to industrial uses. Given current market forces and the age and nature of the structures in this area, the effect of restricting the use of this and other structures in the vicinity of 279 Rexdale Boulevard to industrial activities will be to undermine the economic viability of the area. Ultimately, the effect of not recognizing current market forces influencing the future disposition of lands along this section of Rexdale Boulevard will be manifested in vacant and/or underutilized buildings and pressure for urban renewal. In turn, this will fuel speculation and uncertainty resulting in pressure for the introduction of non-employment forms of land use.

In conclusion, an opportunity now exists through the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review to provide for the revitalization and rejuvenation of those properties in the vicinity of the intersection of Rexdale Boulevard and Martin Grove Road, inclusive of our Client’s lands, by designating the lands within the General Employment classification. The effective integration of both General Employment and Core Employment areas, as part of a well defined and rationale planning framework, will serve to maintain and reinforce the function and locational advantages of this relatively large Employment District consistent with the rudimentary planning principles contained in both the Provincial Growth Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement.

We trust that our Client’s concerns and the matters outlined herein will be given due consideration during the review of the Five Year - Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan for the City of Toronto. Should you consider it appropriate, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your Staff to discuss this matter and to ensure that the issues facing our Client and the adjacent property owners are addressed in an appropriate manner.

Sincerely yours,
McDermott & Associates Limited

John McDermott, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Principal Planner

copy to: The Chair and Members,
Planning and Growth Management Committee, City of Toronto

Mr. Al Wakeel
Dundas Real Estate Investments

Mr. David White, O.C.
Devry Smith Frank LLP

MCDERMOTT & ASSOCIATES LIMITED
LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS
Appendix “A2”

Land Use Index

Northerly Limits of Rexdale Boulevard

West of Martin Grove Road

1. 288 Rexdale Boulevard
   Petro Canada Fuel Station

East of Martin Grove Road To Brydon Drive

2. 276 Rexdale Boulevard
   Cash Money (formerly Mr. Sub)

3. 270 Rexdale Boulevard
   Etobicoke Self Storage

4. 268 Rexdale Boulevard
   Vacant Offices - Plastipak Industries

5. 260 Rexdale Boulevard
   Plastipak Industries Inc.
   Offices and Plant for fabrication of lids and containers for various food and dairy products

6. 248 Rexdale Boulevard
   Hyundai Automotive Dealership

7. 240 Rexdale Boulevard
   U Haul Self Storage

8. 230 Rexdale Boulevard
   Mountain of Fire Miracle Ministries - Place of Worship

9. 210 Rexdale Boulevard
   Wolseley Mechanical Group

10. 200 Rexdale Boulevard
    Lynx Trucking and Transportation / Auto Recycling Facility

11. 178 Rexdale Boulevard
    CSA Group Offices and Research Facility
Appendix "A2"

Land Use Index

Southerly Limits of Rexdale Boulevard

West of Martin Grove Road

12. 305 Rexdale Boulevard
    Esso Canada Fuel Station & Toronto Auto Wash

13. 301 Rexdale Boulevard
    City Automotive
    Enterprise Car Rentals
    AMC Collision Services

14. 291 Rexdale Boulevard
    CIBC Banking Centre

East of Martin Grove Road

15. 285 Rexdale Boulevard
    Tim Hortons
    Subway Restaurant
    Pita Land

16. 279 Rexdale Boulevard (subject lands)
    (For Tenant Details refer to Appendix "A3")

17. 269 Rexdale Boulevard
    Swiss Chalet
    Harvey's

18. 249 Rexdale Boulevard
    Midas Auto Service

19. 229 Rexdale Boulevard
    Ali Babas Middle Eastern Cuisine

20. 225 Rexdale Boulevard
    Intercontinental Warehouse Inc. / Grocery Gateway Warehouse
    Shipping/Receiving Terminal

21. 195 Rexdale Boulevard
    Midland Food Products
    Warehouse and Shipping/Receiving Depot
Appendix "A2"

Land Use Index

Westerly Limits of Martin Grove Road - South of Rexdale Boulevard

22. 1350 Martin Grove Road
    Offices of Security Link Ameritech
    Wholesale Distribution of Security Alarm Systems and Monitoring Devices

23. 1344 Martin Grove Road
    West End Worship Centre

24. 1355 Martin Grove Road
    Paramount Pallet Inc. - Offices and Manufacturing Facility

25. 1296 Martin Grove Road
    Dominion Warehousing and Distribution Centre

26. 1290 Martin Grove Road
    Mega Furniture Importers & Sales

Easterly Limits of Martin Grove Road - South of Rexdale Boulevard To Bethridge Drive

27. 1271 Martin Grove Road
    Vacant Industrial Structure - former site of Howell Stamping (metal manufacturing and machining)

28. 1245 Martin Grove Road
    CW Henderson Distribution Centre
    Evangel Assembly of God Church
    CTSI - Logistics and Shipping Facility

29. 1231 Martin Grove Road
    Co-Pak Packaging

30. 70 - 100 Bethridge Drive
    Pet Value Warehouse & Distribution Centre
    Westmark Warehousing Services