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Armenian Community Centre

Planning and Growth Management Committee  
Attn: Frances Pritchard  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: 2450 Victoria Park Avenue**

It has recently come to our attention that the Planning and Growth Management Committee of the City of Toronto approved a report regarding an amendment of the Official Plan with respect to 2450 Victoria Park Avenue.

As stated in the supporting materials submitted to the committee, the Armenian Community Centre and the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church occupy the land immediately to the south of the parcel of land discussed in the January 28, 2013 report.

We find it troubling that, despite the Armenian Community Centre reaching out to the local councillor and the Mayor of Toronto on this issue, no one chose to inform us that the committee would be considering this item of business on January 28, 2013. Additionally, we are very concerned that the committee's decision does not mention the special concern expressed by the Armenian Community Centre regarding the use of the parcel of land discussed in the report or that the public consultation process should involve discussions specifically with the Armenian Community Centre.

The Armenian Community Centre has a special interest in the use of these lands. In 1978, the Canadian-Armenian community was looking for a new home. The community had outgrown its previous home at Avenue and Dupont and needed a space on which to expand. The community met with then North York Mayor Mel Lastman who convinced the community to establish the community centre on its present site because it would be in a location where it would be possible to expand the footprint to keep up with the community's growth and it would be in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood.

The community purchased the lands it currently occupies based on that commitment and built, over time, a community centre, a private day school and a church. These institutions in turn attracted more Canadian-Armenians to move to the area, such that now Councillor Kelly's, Councillor Del Grande's and Councillor Carroll's wards have the highest concentration of Armenians in Toronto. Most Armenian families make a conscious decision to purchase or rent close to their community centre, school and church.

The introduction of nearly two thousand residents to what is currently a commercial area will have a drastic impact on the character of the neighbourhood and the ability of the community centre, school and church to serve their respective constituents.

Keeping in mind our special interest and status as long time residents of the neighbourhood, we would appreciate a fair chance to be involved in the approval process at every stage and the opportunity to make our community's valid concerns known to our representatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Varant Marsim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Varant Marsim,  
President, Armenian Community Centre

cc: Mayor Robert Ford  
Councillor Shelley Carroll  
Michael Goldberg, Goldberg Group