via email: pgmc@toronto.ca

re: Agenda item PG 21.1

March 5, 2013

Planning and Growth Management Committee
c/o Frances Pritchard, Administrator
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To the Chair and members of the Committee:

The University of Toronto – in an email letter to the Committee from their lawyers Cassels Brock, which we received a copy of Tuesday afternoon, March 5th, at 4:17pm – asks for specific changes to the draft City-wide Zoning By-law.

We oppose these changes. They amount to a carte blanche that would allow the university to do pretty much what it pleased with the properties it owns outside its campuses, only some of which are named in their letter.

The draft by-law is intended, overall, to protect adjacent neighbourhoods and to encourage rational urban development. The university is free to apply for future specific by-law amendments to allow for specific buildings (and uses) that the university desires, and to have those changes judged on a case by case basis. For example, the university could easily apply in this way to support their redevelopment of the Institute of Child Study site(s). A case by case approach might take a bit longer, but the public interest would be better served.

A red flag has been raised for us by the university's actions on the proposed privately-developed "student residence" at 245 College Street, partly on university-owned land.

The university's extraterritorial ambitions need to be subject to municipal control, and the draft by-law is a step in that direction. The university's requests for changes should be refused.

Max Allen
Vice-president, Planning and Development, GCA
mallen6@sympatico.ca  416-593-1238

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Honorary president, GCA
ceta_r@yahoo.ca