CD27.8.1

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April 1, 2014 Public

Private and Confidential

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Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk
City Clerk's Department
Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Toronto
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: City of Toronto Council Meeting
Meeting No. 50–April 1-2, 2014
Agenda Item CD27.81 – "In Service" Maintaining Charitable and Community Services when Churches are Sold

You will recall that we represent the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for The Diocese of Toronto, in Canada (the "Archdiocese") in respect of approximately 124 property, parish and mission interests throughout the City of Toronto. Those interests cover 42 of the City's 44 Wards and represent some 600,000 parishioners.

We understand that Council will be considering the above-noted item on April 1-2, 2014 and we take this opportunity to submit our client's comments for your consideration.

Comments

We understand that the intent of the Item CD27.81 Motion is to limit the assessment and related recommendations to only those churches that include facilities or program that are directly funded by the City.

Our client is however concerned that the "Summary" wording accompanying the Motion references all program and services provided by or through Churches and similarly references that all social services be maintained after the sale of a Church.

In that regard, the Archdiocese requests that Council ensure the intent of the Motion is clear and would only apply to those facilities or program that are directly funded by the City.

PTO →

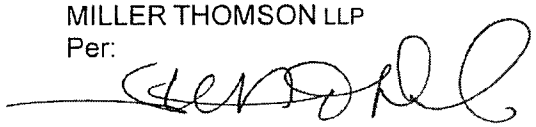
We would also encourage that Council direct staff to meet with the faith group stakeholders in finalizing their report to Council.

We hereby request that the Clerk to provide us with Notice of any subsequent considerations or decisions on this matter.

We trust that you will find the above of some assistance in your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

MILLER THOMSON LLP
Per:



Steven J. O'Melia
SJO/dms

c. D. Finnegan, Archdiocese of Toronto
D. Tang, Gowlings LLP (obo The Toronto Faith Coalition)
J. Park, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (obo Ontario Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church)
J. Debono, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (obo Salvation Army)
Rev. E. Hardy, Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto
E. Mathieson, The United Church of Canada