



Mimico Lakeshore Network
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June 17, 2014

To the members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee
City of Toronto
City Hall
Toronto, ON

Re. Agenda item PG34.4, Official Plan Policies for implementing a Development Permit System – Final Report

We are writing on behalf of the Mimico Lakeshore Network, an umbrella organization that brings together eleven different community groups that share concerns about development in Mimico and its environs.

The Mimico Lakeshore Network was created to fill the need for broadly based input from the community to the Mimico 20/20 revitalization initiative. From its inception MLN has advocated a type of planning in which citizens work out a vision for their community, the vision is incorporated in a set of planning policies, and the policies are then made to stick – rather than becoming the starting point for negotiations with developers in which the elements of the vision are undone, watered down and traded away. We have also maintained that the process of developing and implementing planning policies should be as transparent as possible, and as inclusive as possible, at every stage.

In keeping with this thinking, the Mimico Lakeshore Network will enthusiastically welcome the implementation of a Development Permit System to replace the existing system of zoning in selected neighbourhoods of the city. In our view, it will be a much superior tool for the purpose of realizing the vision a community embraces for the future of its physical and social fabric.

The final report, to be considered at the June 19 meeting of the Planning and Growth Management Committee, proposes a policy (No. 13) concerning the extent and methods of public notification and consultation over development permit applications. It is left to City Council to elaborate a detailed policy in the future. Because of its concern over the transparency and inclusiveness of this process, the Mimico Lakeshore Network favours the use

of community planning boards, either at the ward level or at the level of a neighbourhood in which a DPS is being implemented. We see such boards as an indispensable tool for bringing the vision, the values and the priorities of the community to bear upon the specific, concrete decisions that have to be made in the course of planning the development of a neighbourhood of the city.

We are aware of the exercise called “Growing Conversations” that the City Planning Division will undertake in the near future, and we look forward to participating in the discussions that will be taking place. When the outcome of that exercise is known, we urge City Council not to delay in applying the resulting recommendations to the workings of the Development Permit System.

For the Mimico Lakeshore Network,

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