

City Council**Motion Without Notice**

MM18.33	ACTION			Ward:All
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Ontario Municipal Board Jurisdiction - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the motion passed by the Town of Aurora on January 26, 2016 regarding Ontario Municipal Board Jurisdiction.

Summary

Toronto is a rapidly growing City. Our City's professional planning staff should be spending their time managing that growth and implementing our city's Official Plan. We want our planners to design complete neighbourhoods with access to transit, vibrant retail strips, green space and social supports. Unfortunately, too much of their time is spent defending appeals by developers at the Ontario Municipal Board.

It takes a planner many days of preparation time for every one day of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. Further, they have to write long, overly technical planning reports in case they are called before the board to defend their professional opinions. And it is not only planners that are taken away from serving the City's needs by the Ontario Municipal Board. City lawyers must spend the equivalent of 1,400 days a year to prepare for, and attend, Ontario Municipal Board hearings. City forestry, transportation, technical services staff and others are forced to waste valuable time as well.

The cost to Toronto in both staff time and salary is just too great to justify the Ontario Municipal Board continuing to have its current jurisdiction over Toronto's planning process.

This Motion will see Toronto joining many other municipalities across Ontario in supporting the Town of Aurora's January 2016 request to the Province of Ontario to take immediate action to review the powers and process of the Ontario Municipal Board to ensure that it is respectful of local decision making and complies with Provincial Policy.

The Town of Aurora's motion also asks the Province to limit the jurisdiction of the Ontario

Municipal Board to questions of law or process, and require the Ontario Municipal Board to uphold any planning decisions of Municipal Councils unless they are contrary to the processes and rules set out in legislation.

This Motion is urgent due to a “Municipal Summit” regarding Ontario Municipal Board jurisdiction on May 14, 2016. Given Toronto’s size and influence, it is important for Toronto to have stated its support for the Town of Aurora’s motion prior to the Summit.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM18.33

(January 26, 2016) Town of Aurora resolution regarding Ontario Municipal Board Jurisdiction (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-92850.pdf>)