

June 13, 2016

Our File No.: 120458

**DELIVERED BY E-MAIL AND COURIER**

City Clerk's Office  
Toronto and East York Community Council  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

**Attn: Ellen Devlin, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council**

Dear Ms. Devlin:

**Re: City-Initiated Request to Amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Nos.  
438-86 and 569-2013  
625 Church Street, City of Toronto**

We are solicitors for Manulife Financial, the owner of lands known municipally as 625 Church Street in the City of Toronto (the "**Property**"). The Property is within the area to which the above-noted proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments (the "**Proposed Amendments**"), if enacted, would apply. Among other things, the Proposed Amendments take setback standards that currently reside in a set of guidelines (the "**Guidelines**") and import them into the City's zoning by-laws, with some modifications.

We write to express our client's concerns regarding the Proposed Amendments and request that Community Council defer its consideration of this matter.

In our client's view, Community Council's consideration of the Proposed Amendments is premature at this time. The Proposed Amendments would, if adopted, have significant implications for all tall building development sites in the *Downtown* area. Despite the significant impact of the Proposed Amendments, they have not been made available to our client for detailed review. Specifically, while the proposed Official Plan amendments have been available for some time, the accompanying zoning by-law amendments that are designed to implement these Official Plan policies were only made available days before the scheduled public meeting. With such limited access to all of the amendments under consideration, our client has not had a meaningful opportunity to understand the full extent of their implications. Likewise, the City has not had an opportunity to engage

# Goodmans<sup>LLP</sup>

in meaningful consultation on the content of the proposed zoning by-law amendments. In these circumstances, deferring consideration of the Proposed Amendments is the most appropriate course.

Based on the information currently available, our client has the following concerns with the Proposed Amendments:

- The Proposed Amendments would introduce unnecessary rigidity into downtown Toronto's planning framework. Building strong, healthy communities in downtown Toronto requires a flexible approach that recognizes the unique characteristics of each site. Maintaining the setback standards in the Guidelines is the best way to ensure that planning for tall buildings appropriately accounts for site-specific considerations.
- Although the Proposed Amendments purport to apply the exact same standards as currently applicable in the Guidelines, they in fact require greater setbacks in certain circumstances. For example, the Proposed Amendments require a greater setback from undersized streets such as Hayden Street, which abuts the north side of the Property, than currently indicated under the Guidelines. This enhanced setback could have a significant impact on the development potential of the Property.

Proper consideration of the Proposed Amendments at this time is not feasible in light of the limited information made available to the public, including our client. Accordingly, on behalf of our client, we hereby object to the Proposed Amendments and request that Community Council defer its consideration of this matter.

We would appreciate receiving notice of any decision regarding the Proposed Amendments.

Yours very truly,

GOODMANS LLP



David Bronskill  
DJB/jbh