

August 23, 2017

Chair Jennifer Rieger and members of the Toronto Preservation Board
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2
c/o Toronto City Clerks

Dear Chair Rieger,

RE: August 24th Toronto Preservation Board Meeting, Agenda Item: PB25.8 Inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register - Midtown in Focus - Phase 01: Main Street Properties

With more than 1,450 member-companies, the BILD is the voice of the land development, home building and professional renovation industry in the Greater Toronto Area and Simcoe County. Our industry is essential to the City of Toronto's long-term economic strength and prosperity. In 2016 alone, the residential construction industry in Toronto generated over 68,000 on-site and off-site jobs in new home building, renovation and repair – one of the City's largest employers. These jobs paid \$4 billion in wages and contributed \$11.5 billion in investment value to the local economy.

On behalf of the Toronto Chapter members of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), we would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed inclusion of 258 commercial "Main Street" properties on the City's Heritage Register.

BILD and its members were surprised by this proposal. It presents a new approach to listing properties, and yet we did not receive any notice for this report. It was especially surprising given the large volume of properties that are proposed to be listed on the registry. BILD has also been advised by a few of its members that they did not receive notice for this proposal and they have properties that are proposed to be added to the list. As industry stakeholders and affected property owners, we believe that sufficient notice has not been provided.

The City's own report acknowledges that this large number of properties being added to the Heritage Register at one time is unprecedented. Change of this magnitude should always trigger an industry consultation meeting. Given the sheer volume of properties that are proposed to be listed on the City's Heritage Registry, we would like to request a formal consultation meeting. Since this is also a pilot project that will set future expectations for the registry, it is imperative that the City consult with the industry prior to the adoption of the report.

For the reasons noted above, we kindly request:

- 1. That the Toronto Preservation Board not adopt the staff recommendations of this report at its August 24th meeting, to allow time for appropriate notification and consultation.**
- 2. That the Toronto Preservation Board direct City Staff to meet with BILD members in consultation for this proposal.**
- 3. That BILD receives notice on any updates to this proposal and any associated reports of this nature in the future.**

We thank you for considering these thoughts and should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely



Danielle Chin, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager, Policy & Government Relations BILD

CC: Gary Switzer, BILD Toronto Chapter Chair
BILD Toronto Chapter members