



Bay Cloverhill Community Association

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January 11, 2016

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H2N2

Attention: Planning and Growth Committee

Re: item PG17.4 (: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-99796.pdf>)

The Bay Cloverhill Community Association (BCCA) supports the report and recommendations dated January 6, 2017 to the January 11, 2017 Planning and Growth Committee, item PG17.4, see: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-99796.pdf>.

The BCCA is located in downtown Toronto in Ward 27. Our area has a high volume of development applications and planning studies. Our experience for the last 10 years has been that development planners and City lawyers are under resourced and under staffed to handle the high volume of development applications and area studies. For example, downtown community planners were required to review development applications, defend City Council decisions at the Ontario Municipal Board and complete the North Downtown Planning Framework Official Plan Amendment and Urban Design Guidelines concurrently. The current level of community planner staffing includes many gapped positions.

The BCCA has seen first hand the increase in community meetings, development applications appealed to the OMB and total hours City staff have had to be at the OMB.

The hiring of 8 community planners temporarily for two years will help to improve the reporting timeline on development applications. Due to the heavy volume of development applications in the downtown area we request that the allocation of the 8 community planning positions between the 4 districts be related to the volume of applications and OMB appeals on development applications.

Respectfully,

Rick Whitten-Stovall, BCCA President

Cc: Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto
Jennifer Keesmatt, Chief Planner, City of Toronto
Gregg Lintern, Director, Community Planning, Toronto and East York District
David Oikawa, Manager, Community Planning, Downtown Section
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale