



LAKESHORE PLANNING COUNCIL

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November 25, 2019

TO: Members of Toronto City Council

RE: GV5.1 – SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE

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We provide our input on Summary Recommendations 2 and 4 and Motions arising from the Special Governance Committee review:

*2. City Council direct the City Manager and the City Clerk to identify further opportunities for delegation to **Community Council** so that City Council can focus on city-wide priorities and that these opportunities be presented to Council by the end of the fourth quarter of 2020.*

Attached, please find a copy of a Resolution passed on July 10, 2019, by Halton Regional Council to eliminate LPAT. We strongly agree with the statements contained in the Resolution.

In this regard, we recommend that a City of Toronto Planning Commission (CPC) be formed in anticipation of the elimination of LPAT in the near-term.

We have drafted City of Toronto legislation utilizing the New York City Planning Commission as a model, which annually reviews 450 to 500 planning and development applications, each within 150 days.

There are considerable time-savings and other advantages for members of City Council, staff and residents by creating a City of Toronto Planning Commission (CPC):

1. A panel of 9 independent, qualified experts, chaired by the Toronto Chief Planner, can be expected to provide expert oversight and make good planning decisions for the City.
2. The CPC panel will ensure all planning decisions comply with Toronto Official Plan and Provincial planning acts and regulations. Unlike Councillors and staff, the CPC panel members cannot be lobbied by any person, politician, or corporate entity, and will remain independent and mandated to act in the public interest.

3. City Council will delegate planning decisions regarding development applications to the CPC, which will receive recommendations from the **Community Council** and residents in the Ward affected by the development application. This will eliminate review of all development applications by the entire Council. A CPC will also reduce the workload of Council's Planning and Housing Committee.
4. Council will retain the right to overturn any CPC decision with a two-thirds vote.

For more information on a proposed City of Toronto Planning Commission, please see our website:

<http://lakeshoreplanningcouncil.com/city-planning-commission-cpc/>

*4. City Council request the City Clerk to identify opportunities to create a more welcoming atmosphere for public presentations (deputations), including increased information for newcomers, dedicated deputations guides, and posted speaking schedules.*

The creation of 25 legislated Resident-based Community Boards, one for each Ward, modelled on the New York City Community Boards, to hold public meetings on matters before City Council will provide considerable **time-savings** and other benefits for City Council.

1. Public meetings held by Community Boards will consolidate input from residents into one report, setting out majority and minority views, with recommendations for Council Committees and Community Councils.
2. In turn, this will considerably reduce the number of individual deputations and reduce the time spent by Councillors at Council Committee meetings and Community Council meetings.
3. Public meetings of Community Boards can take place in the evenings or weekends, at times more convenient for residents to attend, permitting increased participation by residents.
4. Community Boards will provide their own reports, eliminating the need for staff to spend time writing down or reporting the input by residents for Council Committees and Community Councils.
5. The conduct of public meetings and activities of Community Boards are legislated by the City to ensure protection of the public interests of residents of the Ward.

For more information on proposed 25 legislated Resident-based Community Boards, please see our website:

<http://lakeshoreplanningcouncil.com/community-boards/>

*With respect to any forthcoming Motion to members of City Council or Council Committees to spend **\$3.3 million**, or any significant amount of dollars and time on further consultation and research on topics arising from the review by the Special Committee on Governance...*

While we agree that the current systems in place for public consultation are failing residents and the best interests of the City, we **cannot agree** it is necessary or desirable that a significant amount of taxpayer money, or further staff time, be spent on topics arising from the review by the Governance Committee.

Spending significant amounts of money on these topics would be a colossal waste of money and would not achieve satisfactory outcomes that reflect the dollar resources and time spent.

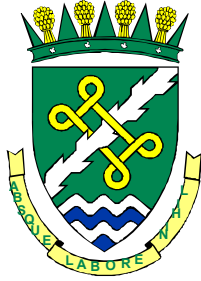
Substantial, comprehensive improvements can be obtained through other avenues and actions.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Peggy Moulder  
Director  
Lakeshore Planning Council Corp. (non-profit)

Enc. Resolution of July 10, 2019, of the Halton Regional Council



## The Regional Municipality of Halton

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY REGIONAL COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019

WHEREAS The Government of Ontario, on June 6, 2019, passed the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*, (Bill 108); and

WHEREAS the changes to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), contained in Bill 108 will give LPAT the authority to make final planning decisions based on a subjective “best planning outcome” approach rather than compliance with municipal and provincially approved official plans and consistency with provincial plans and policy; and

WHEREAS Bill 108 restricts third party appeals of plans of subdivision only to the applicant, municipality, Minister, public body or prescribed list of persons; and

WHEREAS Bill 108 takes local planning decision-making out of the hands of democratically elected municipal councils and puts it into the hands of a non-elected, unaccountable tribunal; and

WHEREAS the LPAT adds cost and delays delivery of affordable housing by expensive, time consuming hearings, contrary to the intent of the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*; and

WHEREAS Regional and City Councils have spent millions defending provincially approved plans at the OMB/LPAT, including more than \$5 million over the last three years;

WHEREAS the reverting back to *de novo* hearings adds delays and costs to the housing delivery, as planning decisions start from scratch requiring lawyers, experts and witnesses, repeating the planning analysis already done by local councils;

WHEREAS Ontario is the only province in Canada that empowers a separate adjudicative tribunal to review and overrule local decisions applying provincially approved plans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT in the short term, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately restore the amendments to the Planning Act that mandated the evaluation of appeals on a consistency and conformity with Provincial policies and plans basis;

THAT in the long-term the Government of Ontario eliminate the LPAT entirely, as an antiquated body that slows delivery and adds costs to housing supply via expensive and drawn out tribunal hearings;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Halton's Members of Provincial Parliament, Leaders of the New Democratic, Liberal and Green parties; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario and Halton's local municipalities.

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