

Attachment 1

April 13, 2016

SENT BY EMAIL

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File 17514.00001

**Attention: Mayor and Members of Council
Uli S. Watkiss, City Clerk**

Dear Mesdames and Messrs:

**Re: DEVELOPMENT CHARGES COMPLAINT
1251 Bridletowne Circle
Middlepark Estates Inc.**

We represent Middlepark Estates Inc. ("Middlepark") with respect to the property municipally known as 1251 Bridletowne Circle (the "Subject Lands"), within the City of Toronto. We hereby file this complaint pursuant to section 20 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c.27 (the "Act") for development charges ("DCs") paid in respect of the development of the Subject Lands.

The Development

The Subject Lands are part of a surplus school site that Middlepark is in the process of redeveloping with a total of 282 residential units. With the exception of 18 surface layby parking spaces for deliveries and short-term parking, the vast majority of the parking for the development, including the visitor parking and all of the resident parking, will be accommodated in an underground parking structure spanning the extent of the Subject Lands. Of the total number of units proposed, 22 units are traditional townhouses and 168 units are stacked townhouses.

The remaining 92 units are an innovative product, with each unit being accessed through a common principal entrance from street level and an interior enclosed corridor (the "Apartment Units"). The relationship of the Apartment Units with the principal entrance and common corridor, as well as with the parking garage, is illustrated on Attachment 1. The Apartment Units

are contained in six buildings located in Blocks J, K, L, M, N, and O, as shown on the Site Plan, which is attached to this correspondence as Attachment 2. The common corridor, located along the central spine of each building, along with the common entrance to each corridor, are also depicted on the Site Plan.

Development Charges Paid & Disputed

On January 29, 2016, Middlepark paid a total of \$2,752,916 in DCs for the 92 Apartment Units. The City calculated the DCs according to the “Multiple 2+ Bedroom” rate of the City’s DC By-law No. 1347-2013 (the “**DC By-law**”) in effect at the time of payment. However, from a review of the “Apartment Unit” definition in the DC By-law, and considering the nature of the Apartment Units, it is Middlepark’s position that the “Apartments 2 Bedrooms and Larger” rate should have been applied to the 92 Apartment Units.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Act, Middlepark files this complaint to Council on the grounds that:

1. The amount of the DCs was incorrectly determined; and
2. There was an error in the application of the DC By-law.

Applying the “Apartments 2 Bedrooms and Larger” rate to the 92 Apartment Units results in DCs payable in the amount of \$2,023,264. Consequently, Middlepark overpaid DCs by \$729,652, which amount, in our respectful submission, should be refunded to Middlepark with interest.

Middlepark does not dispute the DC rates applied to the 22 traditional townhouses or the 168 stacked townhouses.

The 92 Apartment Units Meet the Definition of “Apartment Unit” in the DC By-law

The definition of “Apartment Unit” in the DC By-law is:

A residential dwelling unit within a residential building, or the residential portion of a mixed use building, where such unit is accessed through a common principal entrance from the street level and an interior enclosed corridor, and the building contains three or more units with such access and includes a stacked townhouse.

The elements of this definition and their application to the Apartment Units proposed for the Subject Lands are as follows:

1. Each unit is accessed through a common principal entrance – As depicted in Attachments 1 and 2, visitor and resident parking for the Apartment Units is located in an underground garage, which is accessed from a single ramp on the Subject Site. After parking and exiting the vehicle, the visitor or resident would pass through a doorway taking them outside. The visitor or resident would then ascend a staircase toward street level where the common principle entrance is located at the side of each building. The entrance provides access to all of the units in the building.
2. The common principal entrance is accessed from street level – As shown on Attachments 1 and 2, the principal entrance is accessible from street level, along the side of each of the six buildings. It is visible and accessible to pedestrians and is virtually the only option for those arriving by vehicle. This entrance to the Apartment Units will be used most often and therefore, it constitutes the principal entrance.
3. Each unit is accessed through an interior enclosed corridor – Both Attachment 1 and 2 clearly depict the interior enclosed common corridor, off of which each unit is accessed. The doors to the individual units can be identified on Attachment 1.
4. The building contains three or more units with such access – The number of Apartment Units in each of the six buildings ranges from 12 to 20.

From the foregoing breakdown, the Apartment Units clearly meet each element of the “Apartment Unit” definition in the DC By-law and should be charged accordingly thereunder.

Furthermore, garbage from each of the Apartment Units is collected using a shoot system and is stored in two locations in the underground garage. From there, the garbage is removed from the Subject Lands. There is no collection door-to-door. This communal approach to garbage collection, as well as the provision of storage lockers for each unit, and the underground garage, are all standard characteristics of buildings functioning as residential apartments.

Request to City

On the basis of the above reasons and such further reasons as may arise, we would respectfully request that the City proceed to schedule a hearing of this complaint before Executive Committee. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this complaint with you in

hopes of having it addressed in advance of the hearing date. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Otherwise, we look forward to working with you to rectify this matter.

Yours truly,

WeirFoulds LLP



Lynda Townsend
Jennifer Meader

LT/JM/jm
Encl.
c: Mr. Barry Waltman

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