



September 16, 2019

Councillor Ana Bailao, Chair,
and Members,
Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto Council
email: phc@toronto.ca

**Re: PH 8.5: Implementing a support centre
for CofA and TLAB matters**

I am appearing on behalf of FoNTRA regarding the letter it has filed on this matter from Cathie Macdonald and Geoff Kettel, neither of whom are able to appear before you because of conflicting obligations.

We wish to underline the importance of providing resources that can reduce the imbalance between residents and developers before the TLAB. TLAB proceedings and submission requirements are heavily weighted in favour of developers who can afford expensive planners and lawyers. A support centre that provided advice and assistance could go some distance to rectifying this imbalance.

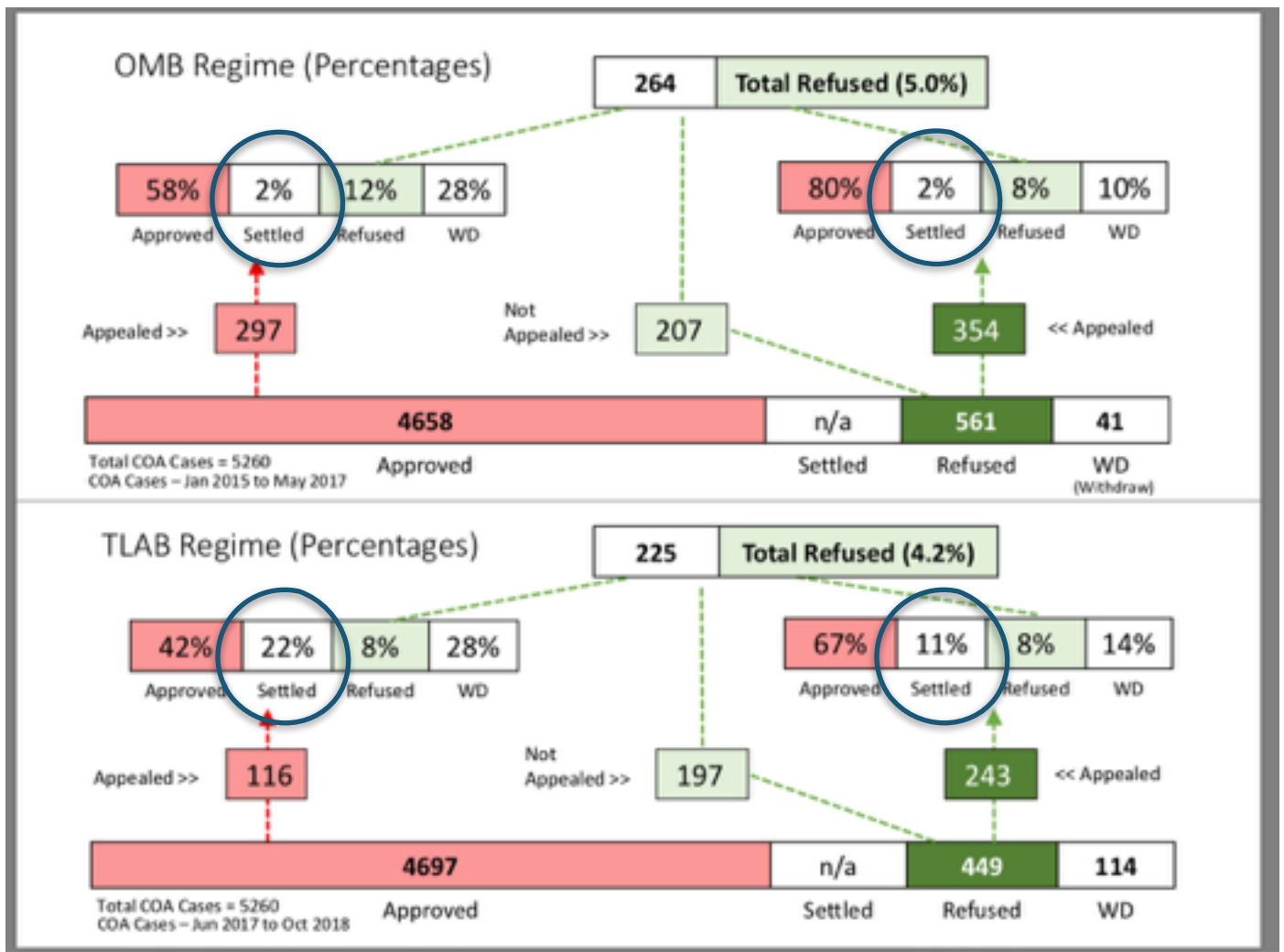
On arguments presented in the staff report: (1) The short duration of the LPAT support centre —cancelled by the provincial government— provides little guidance as to what its potential was. (2) The fact that help to affected residents might in some cases be contrary to a City position does not obviate the City's responsibility to ensure that residents are treated fairly in TLAB proceedings, regardless of City involvement. (3) The lack of public consultation only emphasizes the imbalance of the staff recommendations.

On a second matter, I would also like to underline the potential for mediation in TLAB proceedings. In this connection, I attach a comparison of OMB and LPAT outcomes presented to you by Al Kivi last April, which shows the substantial increase in the importance of negotiated ('settled') results in TLAB proceedings as compared to earlier OMB proceedings. Negotiated settlements are no panacea, but they can provide a better opportunity for community involvement than a quasi-legal hearing.

We urge that you refer this matter back to the staff for reconsideration.

Sincerely,

John Bossons



Increase in negotiated/mediated settlements TLAB vs. OMB