



April 29, 2020

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Marilyn Toft, Secretariat

RE: CC20.2 City of Toronto Response and the Ongoing Management of Emergency City Business during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

The above noted report provides a comprehensive summary of the City's coordinated response to the emergency across all areas of the City's activities. It also outlines the City's proposed approach to recovery and rebuilding.

We sincerely thank the Mayor, Councillors, and staff for their strong leadership, dedicated management and effective operation, further to the three strategic priorities which have guided all aspects of decision making: save lives; prevent overwhelming Toronto's healthcare systems; and protect the social and financial economies.

As you may be aware we previously made known to the Premier concerns of ours (and others) about how making residential construction an essential service opens a significant risk of COVID-19 infection to workers. The nature of construction sites with various trades working, often in close proximity to one another makes physical distancing very challenging. And on construction sites it is difficult to follow hygiene practices recommended to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the hours for construction have been extended, violating the City's Noise Bylaw, creating additional excessive noise for surrounding residents. We continue to be concerned about these matters as we observe development sites in our neighbourhoods.

It has been commented by a number of people recently, including the Premier, that imposing the lock-down was easy, in comparison to the difficult task of releasing it. In that regard we are already seeing interest groups coming forward and asking for special consideration related to the importance of their role in the economy.

The last paragraph of the report indicates that "staff are reviewing whether additional delegated authorities are required in order to accelerate work to be done by the City". This appears to be a red flag to Council that development related interests will be asking the City to restore services related to development applications, including accepting new planning and building permit applications, and delegating Council's authority to process development applications. We would be especially concerned if delegation to staff of approval of development applications was being considered. It is essential that Community Council and Council continue to provide such approval, with assurance of public input.

Finally, we strongly support the City's Recovery and Rebuilding proposal and its commitment to consultation with the public, and reporting by staff on recovery strategies regularly for council approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

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Toronto, Ontario

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Cathie Macdonald
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Cc: Chris Murray, City Manager

Saad Rafi, Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild

Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning

Will Johnston, Chief Building Official and Executive Director, Toronto Building

FoNTRA Members

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. **Its members, all residents' associations, include** at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. **The residents' associations that make up** FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.