

From: [Cindy Weiner](#)
To: [Planning and Housing](#)
Cc: [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Geoff Kettel](#)
Subject: PH16.4 Addressing the Committee of Adjustment Backlog due to COVID 19
Date: September 21, 2020 10:32:48 AM

Dear Chair Ana Bailão and Members, Planning and Housing Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the St. Andrew's Ratepayers Association to support the objections and recommendations submitted to the committee by the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FONTRA) on September 18, 2020 regarding the Committee of Adjustment Backlog due to COVID-19.

The staff report recommends that all Committee of Adjustment members be deemed cross-appointed to all city planning districts and panels for hearings until the end of November 14, 2022. While this recommendation may help to expedite hearings and address the backlog, it is at the detriment of City residents. In order to fairly make a decision on each application, Committee members must be familiar with the subject area. This is highly unlikely if a committee member resides in a different district. It is also highly unlikely that committee members from different districts will be able to visit all subject properties before hearings.

Additionally, as detailed in the FONTRA letter, the current system of virtual CoA hearings limits the abilities of residents to submit comments and/or address the panel. Also, notices are supposed to be sent out at least 10 days prior to a hearing, but historically, residents have less than a week, and often only two or three days, to familiarize themselves with applications and prepare comments.

We support the FONTRA recommendation:

- that the Planning and Housing committee refer the report back to staff and request the Chief Planner and Executive Director to provide a comprehensive report back on all issues with the virtual hearings format.

Thank you.

Cindy Weiner

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