



April 5, 2021

TO: councilmeeeting@toronto.ca

**Re: City Council April 7 2021 MM31.10
Improving Virtual Public Engagements for Development Applications**

The South Armour Heights Residents' Association (SAHRA) wishes to submit our **strong support** for the Motion put forward by Councillor Robinson and Councillor Pasternak asking that a review be done of virtual public engagements as conducted by various departments within the City of Toronto, in consultation with members of the public. The request is that a report be delivered to the Planning and Housing Committee in the second quarter of 2021 with recommendations for improvement, as specified in the Motion.

SAHRA has been dealing with virtual public engagement experiences since they were initiated by the City following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We and our residents have had some very difficult and trying experiences. If this forum is to continue and it appears that it will for some period of time, the City needs to review and improve the process, incorporating best practices. Public consultation is an important part of the development review process. The manner in which public engagements are being conducted now does not provide a 'fair' forum for members of the public to participate.

SAHRA therefore supports the Motion put forward for a review and reporting by Q2 on improvements for virtual public engagements, in consultation with stakeholders and members of the public. Our Association looks forward to participating in this improvement process.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'S. Harrison'.

Sheila Harrison (Secretary)

Councillor Jaye Robinson, Ward 15
Councillor James Pasternak, Ward 6
Councillor Mike Colle, Ward 8
Greg Lintern (Planning)
Geoff Kettel and Cathie Macdonald, FoNTRA
Jim Sadler, Bob Williams, Gary Langdon, SAHRA
LPRO, BPRO, UACA