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**** Sent Via E-Mail to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca ****

City Council
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

Attention: Sylwia Przewdziecki

Dear Ms. Przewdziecki:

Re: Item #TE1.11 - 1 Bloor West (Yonge Street, Bloor Street and Balmuto Street) – Construction Staging Area Time Extension (Ward 11)

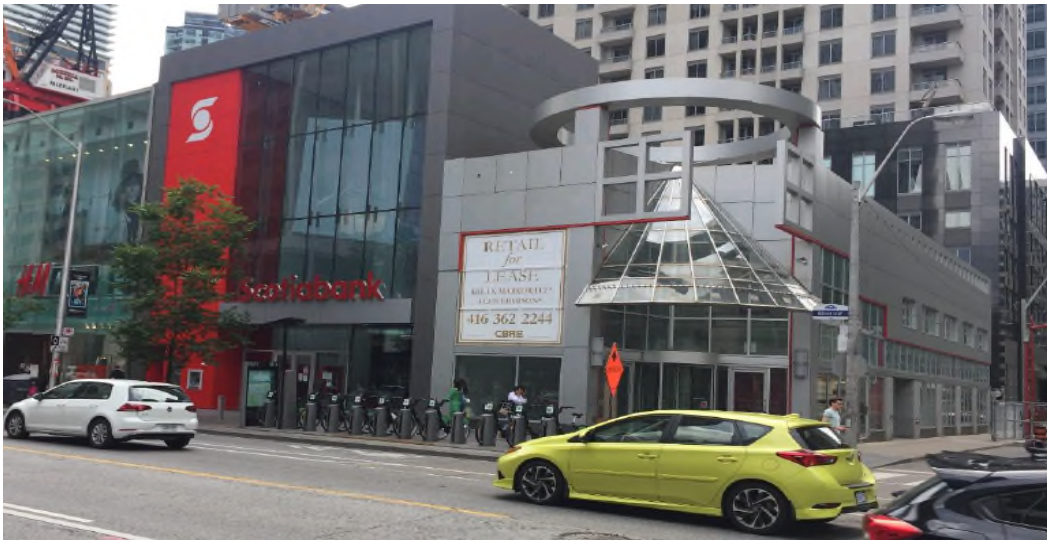
We act as counsel for Mappro Realty Inc. (“**Mappro**”), the owner of the property (the “**Mappro Property**”) at 19 Bloor Street West.

We set out below Mappro's submissions to City Council regarding Item #TE1.11- 1 Bloor West (Yonge Street, Bloor Street and Balmuto Street) – Construction Staging Area Time Extension (Ward 11) (the “**Item**”), currently on the agenda for the meeting on December 14, 2022.

These submissions should be read in conjunction with Mappro’s submissions dated July 14, 2020 and September 15, 2020, enclosed for your convenience.

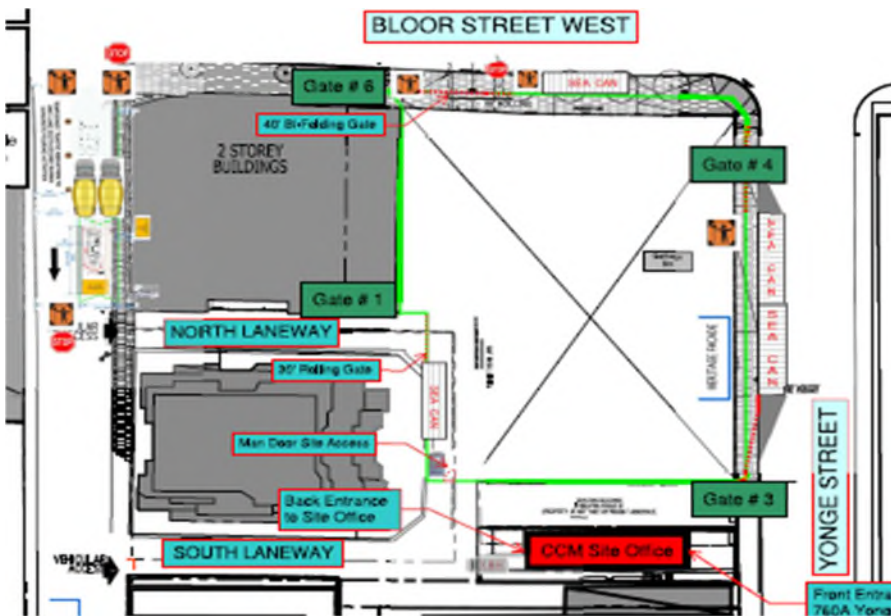
I. BACKGROUND

The Mappro Property is located on the southeast corner of Bloor Street West (“**Bloor**”) and Balmuto Street (“**Balmuto**”). When Mappro purchased the Mappro Property, it split the Mappro Property into two units: one unit would continue to be leased and operated by Scotiabank (the “**Scotia Building**”) and the other would be operated by Mappro (the “**Mappro Building**”). The Mappro Building is approximately 5,500 square feet over two floors. It has a small frontage on Bloor (approximately 30 feet) and a much larger frontage on Balmuto (approximately 111 feet). (See Picture 1 below.)



Picture 1

Mizrahi Developments Inc. (“**Mizrahi**”) owns the property (the “**Mizrahi Property**”) municipally known as 1 Bloor Street West, Toronto. The Mizrahi Property is located next to the H&M store at the corner of Bloor and Yonge Street. (see Picture 1 above and the square highlighted in green on Picture 2 below.)



Picture 2

Mizrahi is in the process of constructing a mixed-use development on the Mizrahi Property.

II. THE IMPROPERLY GRANTED FIRST PERMIT

On July 14, 2020, the General Manager of the Transportation Services (“**Transportation Services**”) granted Mizrahi a temporary street occupation permit (the “**Original Permit**”) allowing it to occupy the northbound lanes on Balmuto "for concrete pour" from July 14, 2020 to August 21, 2020.

The Original permit allowed Mizrahi to use the portion of Balmuto directly in front of the Mappro Building as a construction staging area (the "**Staging Area**") for its project. Mizrahi installed a concrete pump pedestal directly in front of the Mappro Building and had concrete trucks idling for hours at a time in front of the Mappro Building. (See Pictures 3, 4, and 5 below)



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

Transportation Services took the position that it had the authority to grant the Original Permit pursuant to Section 743-18 of the Municipal Code. In its submissions to Toronto and East York Community Council ("**Community Council**") dated September 15, 2020, Mappro asserted that Transportation Services granted the Original Permit contrary to the following sections of the Municipal Code:

- **Section 743-18(B):** Mizrahi did not (and does not) own the lands abutting the occupied portion of Balmuto. The only lands that Mizrahi owned (and owns) are located a block away.
- **Section 743-18(C):** Mizrahi did not obtain (or even seek) Mappro's consent.¹ In fact, Mappro did not learn about the Balmuto occupation until it saw the construction equipment installed in front of the Mappro Building. In addition, Mappro did not waive "all claims against the City for any losses and damages that may arise or result directly or indirectly from this temporary occupation." To the contrary, as discussed below, Mappro made a claim to the City of Toronto (the "**City**") in 2021 for compensation for injurious affection under section 22 of the *Expropriations Act*.
- **Section 743-29(C):** Mizrahi failed to provide Mappro with notice of the occupation of Balmuto even though the occupation affects access to the Property.

Given that Mizrahi continued to occupy Balmuto after the Original Permit expired on August 21, 2020, Mappro can only assume that Transportation Services improperly renewed the Original Permit.

¹ Although it is questionable whether Transportation Services would have had the right to grant the Original Permit had Mizrahi sought and obtained Mappro's consent, it is clear that Transportation Services had no authority to grant the Original Permit without Mappro's consent.

III. MIZRAHI DID NOT ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL PERMIT

The Original Permit provided *only* for occupation of the northbound lane of Balmuto. Mizrahi seemingly violated the terms of the Original Permit by occupying part of the sidewalk (see Picture 7 below), something it continues to do to this date. The City did nothing to stop Mizrahi.



Picture 7

IV. THE 2020 MULTI-YEAR PERMIT

In the fall of 2020, Mizrahi requested that Transportation Services grant Mizrahi a multi-year permit enabling it to use the Staging Area from **November 30, 2020 to November 30, 2022**.

At the time, Mappro noted that it believed that the two-year timeframe was wishful thinking. Given the size and scope of Mizrahi's project, Mappro believed that the occupation would likely need to be much longer. Mappro's concerns were ignored.

After Mappro made its submissions, Transportation Services seemingly conceded that it granted the Original Permit contrary to the Municipal Code. As a result, when faced with Mizrahi's request for a multi-year permit to occupy Balmuto (to use the Staging Area), Transportation Services sought approval from Community Council and, ultimately, City Council before granting it.

Community Council referred the issue to City Council with a recommendation to allow Mizrahi to continue occupying Balmuto (to use the Staging Area) from **November 30, 2020 to November 30, 2022**. City Council adopted Community Council's recommendations on November 25, 2020 with some minor amendments. Two such recommendations were as follows:

19. City Council authorize ... Transportation Services, to negotiate, enter into and execute and indemnity agreement with Mizrahi ... to address the City's interests with respect to any and all

temporary street occupations and closures on Balmuto Street on terms and conditions satisfactory to the ... Transportation Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

20. City Council direct that Recommendation 1 to 18, inclusive, above, be subject to Mizrahi ... entering into the indemnity agreement in Recommendation 19 above.

Instead of safeguarding Mappro's rights in accordance with the Municipal Code, the City allowed Mizrahi to inflict significant economic harm to Mappro while simultaneously trying to insulate itself from the inevitable fallout.

On June 8, 2021 Transportation Services issued a multi year permit (the "**2020 Multi-Year Permit**") to Mizrahi to occupy Balmuto. Confusingly, the time period noted on the 2020 Multi-Year Permit was "November 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020."

V. THE IMPACT ON MAPPRO AND MAPPRO'S CLAIM FOR INJURIOUS AFFECTION

Mizrahi's installation and use of the Staging Area (and the City's authorization of it) significantly interferes with Mappro's enjoyment of the Mappro Property in many ways, including but not limited to the following:

- a) it results in concrete trucks idling directly in front of the Mappro Building for many hours a day;
- b) it creates unreasonable noise, vibration, dust, dirt, and smell;
- c) it is unsightly;
- d) it obstructs the sidewalk in front of the Mappro Building;
- e) it restricts access to the Mappro Building and the emergency exits;
- f) it restricts visibility into and from the Mappro Building; and
- g) it restricts access to the fire hydrant.

Mappro has spent a significant amount of time and money on a marketing program to secure the appropriate, long-term, high-end retail tenant for the Mappro Building. It has also sought to lease the Mappro Building to short-term tenants. Mappro's ability to attract short-term or long-term tenants has been negatively affected by the installation and ongoing use of the Staging Area.

In addition, Mappro has begun the process of renovating the Mappro Building. On July 13, 2022, Mappro obtained the necessary building permit (the "**Mappro Permit**") for its renovation project (the "**Mappro Project**"). The Mappro Project will include, among other things, an extensive renovation of the entire façade of the Mappro Building along Balmuto and Bloor. Mappro expects to begin construction on the Mappro Project in **March 2023**.

To undertake the Mappro Project, however, Mappro will need to temporarily occupy the area outside of the Mappro Building along Balmuto (i.e. where the Staging Area is currently erected).

On December 6, 2022, Mappro's construction manager, Donogh Hanley, met with Eric Jensen ("**Jensen**"), a senior project coordinator at Transportation Services. Jensen acknowledged that if Mizrahi's pump station in the Staging Area remains in its existing location, Mappro will not be able to perform the Mappro Project in accordance with the Mappro Permit.

The continued use of the Staging Area will interfere with, delay, and increase the cost of the Mappro Project. This too will negatively impact Mappro's ability to lease the Mappro Building going forward.

Mappro has and continues to suffer significant financial damages.

In light of the foregoing, on September 7, 2021, Mappro made a claim for compensation for injurious affection in accordance with section 22 of the *Expropriations Act*. In it, Mappro seeks compensation from the City and Mizrahi for all of the damages that Mappro has and will incur, including the reduction in the market value of the Mappro Property, arising from the construction of the Mizrahi project, the construction and use of the Staging Area, and the issuance of the Original Permit and the 2020 Multi-Year Permit.

VI. CITY COUNCIL SHOULD NOT AUTHORIZE THE NEWLY REQUESTED PERMIT – EVEN IN THE PROPOSED AMENDED FORM

As Mappro suspected, Mizrahi underrepresented, whether knowingly or not, the length of time it would need to use the Staging Area and, thus, occupy Balmuto. Mizrahi now seeks a new multi-year permit (the "**New Multi-Year Permit**") to occupy Balmuto from December 14, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (i.e. an addition **2.5 years**).²

On November 14, 2022, Transportation Services released a Report for Action (the "**Report**") concerning Mizrahi's request. In the Report, Transportation Services made 22 recommendations, many of which concern Mizrahi's request for the New Multi-Year Permit. In addition to recommending the granting of the New Multi-Year Permit, the Report contains three noteworthy aspects:

1. Transportation Services concedes that the request for the New Multi-Year Permit runs afoul of the Municipal Code.
2. It recommended that:

16. City Council direct ... Transportation Services, to not issue any other Temporary Street Occupation permit for the period of December 14, 2022 to June 30, 2025, inclusive, for a portion of Balmuto Street, from a point 29 metres south of Bloor Street West and a point 12 metres further south.

This recommendation is new. It was not included as a term of the Original Permit or the 2020 Multi-Year Permit or as one of the recommendations made before those permits were issued. This recommendation is clearly being made in recognition of the fact that (a) Mappro is seeking to begin the Mappro Project in the near future and (b) the issuance of the New Multi-Year Permit will prevent Mappro from being able to do so.

3. The Report concludes that:

There is no financial impact to the City. Mizrahi Developments is responsible for all costs, including payment of fees to the City for the occupancy of the right-of-way. Based on the area enclosed and projected duration of the proposed temporary closures on Balmuto Street, Yonge Street and Bloor Street West, these fees will be approximately \$1,200,000.00 including lost revenue from the parking machines (if applicable).

² It is unclear what authorization would govern Mizrahi's occupation of Balmuto from November 30, 2022 to December 14, 2022.

After considering the Item on November 30, 2022, Community Council adopted the recommendations set out in the Report with certain amendments, now being considered by City Council. The most noteworthy amendment is to the proposed end date of the new permit. Community Council recommends that the new permit expire on **March 31, 2023** as opposed to **June 30, 2025** (as Mizrahi had requested). This amendment was seemingly done to give Community Council and City Council time to consider what principles the City should consider when determining whether, to what extent, and on what terms to grant the New Multi-Year Permit contrary to the Municipal Code in circumstances where the owner whose lands abut the proposed occupied street has not consented to the occupation.

City Council is being asked to close a portion of a city street located directly in front of the Mappro Building to enable Mizrahi to construct a development project located a block away and add \$1.2M (for fees and lost revenue) to the City's coffers at Mappro's expense.

The Municipal Code makes it clear that while a land owner might reasonably assume some risk of being inconvenienced by construction work being performed by one of its direct neighbours (discussed below), it does not reasonably assume the risk that the City might close the street in front of its property for two to five years to allow for construction a block away.

More importantly, in the case of work being performed by a direct neighbour (which is not the case here), the Municipal Code protects the inconvenienced landowner under section 743-18(C) which provides that:

A permit issued under this Section **shall not authorize the temporary occupation of any portion of the street beyond the limits of the subject property's frontage** on the street, **unless the adjoining property owner consents, in writing**, to the General Manager issuing a permit for the temporary occupation of the street adjoining their property and the adjoining property owner waives all claims against the City for any losses and damages that may arise or result directly or indirectly from this temporary occupation.

In creating this By-Law, the City recognized that if a land owner wishes to temporarily occupy a portion of the street that stretches beyond the limits of its property frontage, it must obtain its neighbour's consent. This makes eminent sense. It is only fair that a developer be required to ask its neighbour if the developer wishes to occupy the street in front of the neighbour's property.

If Mizrahi wishes to occupy the portion of Balmuto directly in front of the Mappro Building (i.e. a street located a full block away from the Mizrahi Property), thereby engulfing the Mappro Building into Mizrahi's construction zone, Mizrahi should be required to obtain Mappro's consent and, in doing so, compensate Mappro for the financial harm that it is causing to Mappro. **A determination of the financial harm that Mizrahi has caused and proposes to cause to Mappro is easy to calculate in this case; namely, it is the market value of the rent that Mappro has been prevented from earning on the Mappro Building because of the existence and use of the Staging Area.**

It is unreasonable for the City to permit its lands to be used in a way that allows Mizrahi and the City to profit at Mappro's expense. The irony here is that Transportation Services is proposing that Mappro be required to endure the adverse financial impacts arising from Mizrahi's occupation of Balmuto while simultaneously requiring Mizrahi to compensate the City for any financial impacts to it (e.g. \$1.2M in lost parking revenue and in fees). Clearly, the City recognizes that it is only fair that there be "*... no financial impact to the City*" arising from Mizrahi's occupation of Balmuto. Why should Mappro be treated any differently?

Finally, Mappro notes that neither Transportation Services, nor Mizrahi (nor anyone else from the City for that matter) advised Mappro that Mizrahi was seeking the New Multi-Year Permit even though (a) Mappro has repeatedly requested to be kept apprised of all developments concerning the occupation of Balmuto and (b) Mappro will be the party most significantly affected if the New Multi-Year Permit is granted. The failure to notify Mappro was unreasonable (at best).

VII. CONCLUSION

Although the issuance of a new permit that expires on March 30, 2023 is less harmful to Mappro than one that expires in 2025, it will still delay the Mappro Project, thereby causing Mappro to suffer more even more financial harm than that which Mappro has already suffered. Mappro opposes the issuance of any permit that is contrary to the Municipal Code that does not provide that Mizrahi be required to compensate Mappro for the damages it is causing.

City Council should require Mizrahi to obtain Mappro's consent or to properly compensate Mappro before allowing Mizrahi to occupy Balmuto.

Yours very truly,
SPEIGEL NICHOLS FOX LLP



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On behalf of Mappro Realty Inc.

AS:cl

Encl.

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