



Bondi

July 13, 2023

EMAILED

Planning and Housing Committee
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Proposed Conversion at 340-364 Evans Avenue and 12-16 Arnold Street (July 5/23 PHC)

Dear Chair Bradford and Members of Planning and Housing Committee:

On behalf of Bondi Produce & Specialty Foods (Bondi), I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed land conversion requests in South Etobicoke, in particular the above noted site located only 3 km away from our main distribution centre.

Bondi is a fourth generation, family-owned and operated firm. We are Ontario's leading distributor of fresh produce and specialty ingredients to Toronto's \$3.2B foodservice industry. Our clients range from small mom-and-pop diners to large, iconic event spaces like Scotiabank Arena and the Rogers Centre.

We are headquartered at our 80,000 square foot distribution centre at 188 New Toronto Street in South Etobicoke—an area which is best-known as Ontario's food hub with the Ontario Food Terminal and several other "off market" wholesalers and distributors all within a stone's throw. For the last 20 years, we have been proud to call South Etobicoke home for our operations.

We employ over 200 people and strongly promote internal career advancement opportunities within our organization. As a result, we offer a range of well-paid, full-time positions from entry-level to management. Our workforce is comprised of a diverse group of individuals—many of which are new to the country. Moreover, our team is local with 90% of our staff living within a 20km radius of our office and over 50% of them utilizing public transit (thanks to our proximity to the Mimico GO station and several key TTC bus routes) to get to and from the office. Our transit-friendly location has been a huge recruitment tool for our business.

Furthermore, being in South Etobicoke is a major competitive advantage for us and has been a key factor in our growth over the last decade. Foodservice establishments rely on early, daily deliveries of fresh produce in order to keep their customers happy. Our unique location allows us to consistently deliver on our customer promise.

Today I would like to express my concern of the above noted proposed conversion request, which is located on lands surrounded by the South Etobicoke Employment Area and in very close proximity to our distribution headquarters. We are a 24/7 operation—in fact, the bulk of our order selection, loading, and shipping process happens outside of regular business hours. We also have a high volume of both inbound and outbound trucks at the facility daily as is the case with many perishable distributors. As such, we rely heavily on the local road network and its proximity to key highways to



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efficiently move our goods. We desperately need to operate in a location that has roadway options which avoid residential areas.

We are afraid that the proposed conversion would not only lead to the immediate loss of a crucial stretch of roadway that is an integral part of our operations, but also set a precedent that could justify a conversion on any other parcel of land in the surrounding areas. Therefore, we strongly urge this Committee to refuse the proposed conversion application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ezio Bondi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ezio Bondi, Vice President, Bondi Produce & Specialty Foods