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Toronto Industry Network

EMAILED

September 5, 2023

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Council, Second Floor, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2.

Attention: Sylwia Przezdziecki

Dear Mayor Chow and Council Members:

Re: EX7.1 Updated Long-Term Financial Plan

The Toronto Industry Network (TIN) is writing to respectfully request that Council direct staff to cause a very careful review with meaningful consultation with key stakeholders regarding: the future application of Development Charges; how the Imagination, Technology, Innovation and Technology (IMIT) Program might be improved; assessing the impact of a proposed commercial parking levy as well as the implementation of the stormwater and administrative charges.

Also of concern is Recommendation #7 requesting the Executive Director of Environment and Climate Change to develop by-laws starting in the 4th quarter of this year, compelling all building owners to supply building consumption data to help the City meet specific greenhouse gas emissions performance standards yet to be determined. While this goal may have merit, this directive is alarming as there is no reference to public consultation, no acknowledgement of the significant administrative cost involved nor the financial burden on the City's businesses compelled to report and the negative impact on the City's competitiveness. TIN recommends that this initiative undergo a very careful review.

TIN believes that a key objective of Council to help close the current and future funding gaps is to maintain and increase the level of investment and therefore property tax assessment. It is also critical to grow employment through efforts such as intensifying the use of Employment Lands by manufacturing and related uses. Many TIN members are multi-nationals and are very sensitive to the cost of doing business here compared to elsewhere. The City must be able to compete to retain and attract businesses such as manufacturers.

We look forward to participating in this consultation process to help secure the long-term financial future of our City.
Sincerely,
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Craig McLuckie, President