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July 10th, 2024

City of Toronto
Planning & Housing Committee

Dear Chair,

Subject: Objection to OPA 680 and OPA 668

I am writing to express my strong objection to Official Plan Amendments (OPA) 680 and 668, which are currently under consideration. In my humble opinion, these amendments pose significant risks and could have detrimental effects on our community, particularly in terms of land use and their impact on local businesses and property owners.

1. **Adverse Effects on Land Use:** OPA 680 and OPA 668 propose changes that could significantly alter the current land use patterns in our community. These amendments may lead to increased commercialization and industrialization of areas that are currently residential or mixed-use, disrupting the balance and character of our neighborhoods. Such changes could undermine the quality of life for residents and lead to increased congestion and environmental degradation.
2. **Impact on Local Businesses:** The proposed amendments could adversely affect local businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises that form the backbone of our community's economy. Increased competition from larger, potentially non-local businesses could result in reduced market share for local businesses, leading to closures and job losses. The unique character and diversity of our local business community are at risk.
3. **Employment Concerns:** The amendments may result in shifts in employment patterns that do not benefit local residents. While new developments may create jobs, they might not align with the skills and needs of the current workforce, leading to a mismatch in employment opportunities. Additionally, the potential displacement of existing businesses could result in job losses that outweigh any new employment opportunities created.
4. **Property Owner Impacts:** Changes in land use could lead to increased property taxes and decreased property values for existing property owners. The uncertainty and potential for rapid change may cause financial strain for property owners who have invested in the community based on its current zoning and land use policies. This could lead to economic instability and a loss of community trust.
5. **Perspectives from the Business Improvement Area (BIA):** Our local BIA has expressed significant concerns regarding OPA 680 and OPA 668. According to the BIA, the amendments could undermine the efforts made to foster a thriving and diverse local business environment. The BIA emphasizes the importance of maintaining a stable and supportive environment for small businesses, which are crucial for local employment and economic vitality. Disruptions caused by these amendments could reverse the progress made in recent years and deter future investment in our community.

I urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the passage of these amendments and take into account the concerns of your constituents, including the perspectives of our local BIA. The well-being and future of our community depend on making informed and thoughtful decisions that truly serve the public interest.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I hope that my concerns, along with those of many others, will be taken into serious consideration.

Sincerely,



John Gagliano
Vice President