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March 31, 2021

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M5G 2E5

Dear Mr. Clark:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on March 22, 2021, passed the following resolution regarding Planning Act Timelines:

“WHEREAS the City of Kitchener, like many Ontario municipalities, is experiencing significant growth; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has conducted extensive work through its Development Services Review to remove red tape and improve public engagement; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario's Planning Act provides a legislative framework for processing development applications including established timeframes which permit applicants to appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal if a Council fails to make a decision within a prescribed timeline; and,

WHEREAS the passing of Bill 108 in 2019 reduced the timelines for processing development applications before they can be appealed to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT) for a non-decision from those outlined in Bill 139, the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 as follows:

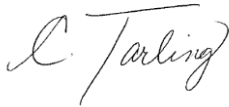
- from seven months (210 days) to four months (120 days) for Official Plan amendments;
- from five months (150 days) to three months (90 days) for Zoning By-law amendments; and
- from six months (180 days) to four months (120 days) for Plans of Subdivision; and

WHEREAS the shortened timeframes create unreasonable pressures on municipalities, even outside the context of navigating city business in a global pandemic, and result in reduced opportunities for meaningful public engagement and limited time for the public to provide written submissions on a development application;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council urge the Province of Ontario to review and reconsider the current timelines established for review of Planning Act applications before an appeal is permitted to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal and to return to the timelines that were in effect under Bill 139, the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the local MP's and MPP's, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Association of Municipalities Ontario, and all other municipalities in Ontario."

Yours truly,



C. Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk

c: Honourable Tim Louis, M.P.
Honourable Raj Saini, M.P.
Honourable Marwan Tabbara, M. P.
Honourable Bardish Chagger, M.P.
Honourable Bryan May, M.P.
Honourable Amy Fee, M.P.P.
Honourable Catherine Fife, M.P.P.
Honourable Belinda Karahalios, M.P.P.
Honourable Mike Harris, M.P.P.
Honourable Laura Mae Lindo, M.P.P.
Bill Karsten, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rosa Bustamante, Director, Planning, City of Kitchener
Ontario Municipalities