

April 28, 2010

10-018

BRAMPTON COUNCIL TO REQUEST AN APPEAL AND REVIEW OF OMB DECISION

BRAMPTON, ON: Today, Brampton City Council voted unanimously to request an appeal and review of a recent Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decision. The decision allows for the proposed construction of 834 units, in six high-rise residential buildings up to 20-storeys, at the north-west corner of Sandalwood Parkway and Conestoga Drive. The property is currently zoned for only 419 units in two 18-storey towers.

The original development application that called for a mixed-use development of 1,443 units in high-rise buildings and townhouses, including a 32-storey tower, was first refused by Council in September 2008. A revised version submitted by the developer, calling for 834 units, was again refused by Council in August 2009, citing that the proposed development would be too large and inconsistent with the neighbouring community, would not conform to the Provincial Growth Plan, would result in increased traffic volumes and the need for infrastructure improvements, and did not provide the required available parkland.

“The OMB decision ignored the unanimous will of council,” says Mayor Susan Fennell. “Nor does it take into consideration the concerns of local residents who are all against this proposal.”

“We’ve said all along that this proposal does not make sense for this area,” says Regional Councillor Paul Palleschi. “The OMB has shown that it has absolutely no regard for local planning.”

“The OMB’s decision is precedent-setting,” says City Councillor John Hutton. “Council is unanimous that we must take action.”

The City will apply for a leave to appeal the OMB decision with the Ontario Divisional Court, which involves the application being heard by a single judge who will determine if it has merit, based on a question of law, to warrant the application proceeding to the Divisional Court.

The City will also be requesting that the OMB review the decision under Section 43 of the Ontario Municipal Board Act, which provides for a review of the request by the Chair of the OMB who will determine if a rehearing is warranted.

In addition, the Mayor, on behalf of Council and all Bramptonians, will be advocating to the Premier and Members of Cabinet, as well as to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, that changes to legislation be implemented to prohibit the OMB from considering, commenting or over-turning a unanimous decision of democratically elected municipal representatives.

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple ‘A’ credit rating by Standard & Poor’s, reflecting its successful economy and debt-free position. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak more than 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being known as the Flower City of Canada. Brampton has been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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