

June 9, 2010

10-026

BRAMPTON ADOPTS HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP POLICY

BRAMPTON, ON: Today at City Council, the City of Brampton voted to amend its Official Plan and Zoning By-law to reflect revisions to the City's Places of Worship Policy. Voted unanimously by all members of Council, this step demonstrates leadership at the municipal level in bringing various stakeholders together.

The City is making amendments to the City's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to offer greater flexibility in the acquisition of reserve sites for faith groups. These amendments permit Places of Worship in more locations across the City, including Residential, Commercial, Business, and specific Industrial zones. This includes a new parking ratio based upon one parking space for every four person capacity, which provides flexibility for the different types of faith groups.

"This has truly been an incredible journey where representatives from the various faith groups, the development community, businesses and the City have come together to find common ground," says Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell. "We have been able to accommodate the needs of diverse groups within the larger community of Brampton."

The development of these amendments came as a result of a policy review that included extensive public consultation starting with the formation of an Advisory Committee in 2006. More recently, this has included the assistance of the Brampton Faith Coalition, in identifying the questions and concerns of its members.

"Through this process, we developed mutual understanding of the needs of the various faith communities in serving their constituents," says Grant Gibson, Chair of the Planning, Design and Development Committee. "This provided us with a strategic way of looking at the role of Places of Worship in a growing city like Brampton."

The public has been updated on this review at Planning Committee and Council 13 times, including at Open Houses and Public Meetings. The public was also encouraged to provide their input and feedback through mail, email and requested meetings with City Planning staff.

"This is truly a 'Made in Brampton' solution that will assist our city's diverse faith communities to grow and serve," says Randy Neilson of the Brampton Faith Coalition. "In addition to helping the faith community more effectively serve residents and contribute to community life, this process has also increased understanding and cooperation between all of Brampton's faith leaders."

The City recognizes that Places of Worship are a key mean of strengthening the spiritual and social fabric of the city and are a major contributor to quality of life.

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

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Gordon Smith
Manager, Media Communications
City of Brampton
Phone: 905.874.3426
gordon.smith@brampton.ca