

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

PLANNING COMMITTEE: MARCH 19, 2019

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

### **Urban Design Through Site Plan Control Authority**

WHEREAS, for more than 10 years, the Planning Act under Section 41 has given municipalities the authority through site plan control to address “matters relating to exterior design, including without limitation the character, scale, appearance and design features of buildings, and their sustainable design, but only to the extent that it is a matter of exterior design”;

WHEREAS, careful attention to excellence in urban design and architecture in both the public and the private realm is essential to healthy, attractive and vibrant cities;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Official Plan contains policies that encourages and promotes good urban design;

WHEREAS, to ensure excellence in urban design and architecture, the City has undertaken numerous initiatives including the creation of urban design guidelines, establishment of a Design Review Panel, and the hosting of a biannual Urban Design and Architecture Awards program;

WHEREAS, there is a clear and significant public interest in ensuring excellence in urban design and architecture;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Association of Architects has recently called upon the provincial government to exclude design as a matter that municipalities can address through site plan control; and,

WHEREAS, excluding matters of design from site plan control would essentially provide no means by which municipalities can ensure new development proposals adhere to principles of good urban design and architecture;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Mayor write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the President of the Ontario Association of Architects to re-confirm the City of Hamilton’s support for excellence in urban design and architecture and for retaining within the Planning Act a municipality’s long-standing authority to address matters related to exterior design through the site plan process.