

June 15, 2020

Via Email

ATTENTION: Office of the City Clerk

City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 1st floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council

RE: Planning Committee - June 16, 2020: Item 9.3
Statutory Meetings During the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency (City Wide)

T. Johns Consulting Group Ltd. is a Hamilton-based small business that provides professional planning, urban design and project management services to landowners and applicants throughout the City of Hamilton. Many of the landowners are well-established developers and homebuilders who take pride in shaping and contributing towards the future of Hamilton's neighbourhoods and communities.

Statutory Meetings are crucial to moving development projects forward and as discussions have concluded, development and construction will be vital to the economic recovery of the City. Aside from the economic recovery, the Province of Ontario has updated their Growth policies through *Bill 108: More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019* and this pandemic emergency does not relieve the Province's mandate of providing a million more homes in a short horizon, from which the City of Hamilton will benefit.

Public consultation is fundamental to land use decisions in Ontario. It is also of the utmost importance to how we function at T. Johns Consulting. Required Public Consultation Strategies are still being implemented by applicants via virtual platforms and letter mail outs. We believe the recommended methods of e-mail and written letter submissions to ensure resident voices are heard during Statutory Meetings is an acceptable temporary alternative to in-person delegations. Many large and mid-size municipalities in Ontario have successfully implemented virtual Statutory Meetings and their local economies, taxpayers and business owners will benefit from the approach.

We respectfully submit this letter in support on Staff's recommendation to implement virtual Statutory Meetings During the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

Sincerely,

T. JOHNS CONSULTING GROUP LTD.



Terri Johns, BA, MCIP, RPP
President

Cc: Mr. Jason Thorne, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton
Mr. Steve Robichaud, Director of Planning & Chief Planner, City of Hamilton