

05 September, 2012

Chairman Brad Clark and Members
City of Hamilton Planning Committee
City Hall, Hamilton.

RE: Section 37 of the Planning Act
Affordable Housing as a Community Benefit

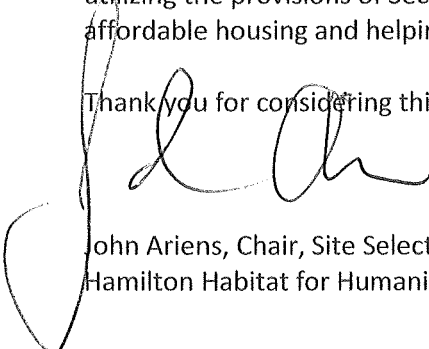
Dear Sirs:

As Committee is aware there is a growing crisis concerning the provision of affordable housing . Hamilton Habitat for Humanity is committed to affordable home ownership and in this regard we have completed 11 new homes in the last 4 years with 5 more pending for 2013. Our biggest challenge however is to find land and redevelopment opportunities.

Section 37 of the Ontario Planning Act allows municipalities to consider granting builders increases in density and/or heights if their projects provide an overall community benefit as described in an Official Plan. The new Hamilton Urban Official Plan identifies affordable housing as a community benefit. As such Hamilton Habitat for Humanity recognizes that there is an opportunity for us to partner with any developer/builder seeking an increase in building density or height provided a certain number of the units resulting from such an increase are in fact affordable Habitat owned units.

I would like to be able to speak to the Planning Committee on this initiative and therefore please consider this letter as my request to appear as a delegation before your next scheduled meeting. By utilizing the provisions of Section 37 the City will be advancing your own Official Plan policies on affordable housing and helping us to put more families into affordable home ownership .

Thank you for considering this delegation request.



John Ariens, Chair, Site Selection Committee
Hamilton Habitat for Humanity