

7.1(iv)



November 27, 2012

Guy Paparella
Director, Growth Planning
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Re: City of Hamilton Growth Management User Fee Review

As a member of the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association and long time builder/developer in the City of Hamilton, we wish to express our concern with the City of Hamilton's current User Fee Review for Growth Management. It is our understanding that the City is seeking to achieve 100% cost recovery for the services provided by both Planning and Engineering, with the result being some fees increasing by as much as 96% when compared to current rates.

While we acknowledge and agree with the principle of applicants paying their fair share of the costs associated with providing services to the development industry, we find it disconcerting to increase fees without a more open and formal review. Files processed by Growth Management provide benefit to both new home buyers and existing residents, thus 100% cost recovery on the new home buyer is inherently unfair. Furthermore, without a thorough review of existing practices it is impossible to determine whether or not current efforts and processing procedures are efficient.

We at Marz Homes can not support the implementation of these new user fees. To apportion 100% of these fees to the new home buyer is completely unjust, and will directly impact any competitive edge this city may have in enticing new home buyers.

Therefore, in consideration of the proposed fee increase, we at Marz Homes support the HHHBA's position in their letter of October 17, 2012. We believe strongly in the City of Hamilton and its ability to appeal to the new home buyer from all sectors. Let's make sure these decisions are made with proper research and support.

Yours truly,

MARZ HOMES HOLDINGS INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Gabriel", written over the company name.

Dan Gabriel
Vice President