



May 11, 2020 MGP Files: 17-2407

Mayor and Members of Council City of Richmond Hill 225 East Beaver Creek Ontario, L4B 3P4

via email: clerks@richmondhill.ca

Dear Members of Council:

RE: Yonge and Bernard KDA Secondary Plan and Implementing Zoning Bylaw.

Malone Given Parsons Ltd. ("MGP") is the Planning Consultant to Dogliola Developments Inc. ("Dogliola") and Campo Ridge Home Corp. ("Campo"), owners of ~2.25 hectares (5.6 acres) of land at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Canyon Hill Avenue in the Yonge and Bernard Key Development Area ("Subject Lands"). Dogliola and Campo have proposed a high-density development consisting of four (4) residential towers sitting a top two podiums on the Subject Lands.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to City Staff for their efforts to engage with and keep us up-to-date on the status of the proposed modifications to the Yonge and Bernard Key Development Area Secondary Plan and Implementing Zoning By-law. Even during these truly unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic, City Staff have been ready and available to consult and discuss issues as they arose.

On May 6th, City Staff released the revised Secondary Plan and Implementing Zoning Bylaw that they will be seeking Council endorsement on at the upcoming May 13th, 2020 Council Meeting. This is the culmination of a lengthy public consultation process.

Overall, we support the modifications proposed by City Staff save for the requirement for 60% non-residential uses on the ground floor facing Yonge Street.

We appreciate the City's efforts to develop a plan that will provide an opportunity to develop the Yonge and Bernard Key Development Area ("KDA") into a high-density, transit-oriented urban community.

In particular, City Staff should be commended for the level of analysis and thought they have placed on determining the appropriate heights and densities for the KDA. The allocation of density, primarily along the corridors, and placing reliance on built-form policies such angular planes, building separation and setbacks to regulate height, provides a planning framework that is flexible yet minimizes adverse impacts on the surrounding low-density community.

Where we disagree with City staff is Section 5.4(c) of the Implementing Zoning Bylaw which states:

"A minimum 60% of the first storey street wall abutting the Yonge Street and Bernard Avenue Active At Grade Frontages shall contain commercial or community uses".

MGP supports active at-grade uses along the Yonge Street frontage. However, in this case the northern portion of the Subject Lands is encumbered by a below grade storm sewer that accommodates flows from an adjacent development. This storm sewer was installed before our client purchased the Subject Lands and was not, at that time, subject to a registered easement. It was only last year (April 2019) that the City enjoyed an easement for this sewer with our client providing the easement as a condition of approval for its adjacent townhouse development.

The sewer easement is located along the Yonge Street frontage (parallel to Yonge Street) which forces the location of the north podium and tower to be setback ~13 metres from Yonge Street. The sewer easement has a reduced impact on the south podium. The location of the sewer easement is shown as Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 on the Reference Plan 65R-38393 (Attachment 1).

With such a large setback from Yonge Street, the goal of having non-residential uses 'activate' or 'animate' Yonge Street cannot be met. Moreover, it is unlikely that any at-grade non-residential uses at this location will be viable over the long term. Finally, the public interest would not be served by requiring this non-residential space to be built yet potentially remain vacant.

We further note that there currently exist substantial non-residential uses in the KDA (south of the Subject Lands and across Yonge Street) and that the proposed Secondary Plan requires all of that existing space to be maintained through redevelopment. Accordingly, the loss of a small amount of future non-residential space along this stretch of Yonge Street will not jeopardize the City's vision for this KDA.

We suggest that the Implementing Zoning Bylaw be modified to include the following clause:

"Where a building cannot be located within 6 metres of the street due to existing infrastructure, the requirement of commercial and community uses on the Yonge Street Active At Grade Frontage does not apply"

Such an exclusion recognizes the unique situation that exists on the Subject Lands while protecting the City's efforts to animate and activate Yonge Street.

City Staff should be commended for the considerable work it has done during these difficult times. We would like to thank the City for providing us with the opportunity to work with you through this process and look forward to continuing our ongoing dialogue to see if we can come to a resolution on this one remaining issue.

Yours very truly,

Malone Given Parsons Ltd.

Lincoln Lo, MCIP, RPP

Encl. (Reference Plan)

Cc Patrick Lee, Director – Policy Planning Dogliola Developments Inc.

