

November 9, 2020

The Corporation of the City of Markham
Development Services Commission
Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
L3R 9W3

Attention: Mr. Arvin Prasad, Commissioner

Dear Sir:

Re: Planning and Engineering Fees

Further to our Zoom meeting of the Planning and Engineering Fees sub-committee held on November 3, 2020, this is to reiterate my position with respect to the City's proposed 5% fee increase for 2021. Specifically, this is to confirm my proposal, on behalf of TACC Developments to accept the City's proposed fee increase of 5% for 2021 on the basis that future increases for 2022 and 2023 do not exceed the rate of inflation for those years.

We note however that the recent BILD Municipal Benchmarking report by Altus Group clearly demonstrates that Markham has the highest Planning and Engineering fees for service in the GTA. This is not surprising given the double digit increases for the last several years. We are also very disappointed that notwithstanding previous commitments, the City did not engage the Development Community until very recently to review the City's fee structure prior to the 2021 increase. We feel that it is critical to investigate why Markham's fees are consistently the highest of all municipalities across the GTA. These types of increases year over year are not sustainable.

Furthermore, the proposed 5% increase for 2021 should come with a commensurate improvement in the level of service for certain areas of the development review process. This is another area that should be discussed and hopefully addressed during a comprehensive review of the fee bylaw jointly by the City and the Development Community.

We look forward to continued dialogue on this most important matter to bring resolve and fairness to the fees for service in the City.

Yours truly

TACC DEVELOPMENTS INC.

Per: 

David Stewart, M.E.S., M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Vice President

Copy to: Paula Tenuta, Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)