

Delegation to City Council, December 17, 2018

Item 10-1-f, 2100 Brant Street.

Worshipful Mayor, Councillors, Staff Members and Fellow Citizens.

I originally requested to delegate tonight to seek clarification on, and an explanation of, the apparent secrecy surrounding the "LPAT Prehearing Conference / Settlement Agreement" between National Homes and The City of Burlington concerning The Development at 2100 Brant St. I was advised by committee staff that delegations are not for the purpose of seeking clarification but for putting forward a particular point of view for council's consideration.

I think this is an unfortunate way of presenting to council as it tends to frame my delegation in an oppositional mode rather than in the collaborative mode I had hoped for.

But if those are the rules, then so be it. I have reworded my questions as statements and with apologies for any unintended bluntness or apparent hostility in the statements; I offer them for your consideration:

1. I believe the process by which a Pre-Hearing Conference becomes a Settlement Agreement Meeting is secretive and not transparent. I urge council to adopt a more transparent model which would allow greater local resident opinion and input.
2. The current method, whether imposed by Council, Staff or LPAT seems to me to provide too much leeway for developers to circumvent local resident input. Again I urge council to revert to the originally planned Pre-Hearing Conference and deny any Settlement Agreement without due input from local residents.
3. The frequency of "Failure to Respond" appeals by developers appears to make this kind of circumvention more likely. I urge council to take appropriate steps to ensure staff are able to respond to O.P. and Zoning Bylaw amendments in the appropriate time per Ontario Municipal legislation.
4. In the case of 2100 Brant St, I understand that our previous council agreed, in camera, to such a settlement agreement? If our previous council allowed this to happen, I ask that council now affirm for concerned local and city wide residents that:
 - a. Council will move to reinstate the pre-hearing conference for 2100 Brant St. and negate any settlement agreement either considered or reached, in camera, without meaningful resident input and participation.
 - b. That all future applications for in camera settlements by developers, staff or others which circumvent a public, accountable and transparent bylaw amendment process will be denied.

While it would be unfortunate if our previous iteration of City Council availed themselves of this kind of non-transparency, I would hope that this council, elected as our representatives on platforms of increasing transparency and accountability, will work with local residents to ensure this is not allowed to happen again.

Following your election as the candidates for change, the people of Burlington are watching this new council's approach to citizen involvement with neighbourhood developments very closely.

Addressing the very real and genuine concerns of the good people of Havendale Blvd / Silwell Ct gives you the opportunity to demonstrate that change is more than a campaign promise.

I thank you all for your time and attention to this matter and again apologise for the hasty changes to this delegation.

Jim Young. Burlington, December 17, 2018.