

February 15, 2022

**Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council**

City of Burlington  
426 Brant St,  
Burlington, ON  
L7R 3Z6

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

**RE:**

[City Council – February 15<sup>th</sup>](#)

[REPORT: Planning Application Fee Review \(PL-07-22\) \(SD-03-22\)](#)

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The Building Industry and Land Development Association (“BILD”) would like to thank Council for providing the industry two additional weeks to review the requested material from the City’s consultant Watson. While we appreciate this greatly, and would have had the material ready by the February 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting – **we now find ourselves in the position to request an additional week (to the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting of Council) to continue reviewing the material.**

This request does not come lightly as at BILD we pride ourselves in being punctual and meeting deadlines but as the COVID-19 pandemic has taught many of us, situations can change very quickly and many things are out of our control. In our internal team there has been a personal emergency that has hindered our ability to provide a fulsome response on the material provided by the City’s consultant on February 4<sup>th</sup>. As such, we will not be prepared for the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council to provide our understanding of the fees.

In the interim, to support our request for a one-week deferral to understand these fees, our consultant has been able to provide us a few early findings from a preliminary review:

- The shortfall in funds appears to be largely related (roughly 2/3rd) to lack of fees for minor variances and zoning clearance letters – things generally required for things like home additions, swimming pools, decks, generally submitted by existing homeowners.
- The City is proposing to increase those fees (but still not enough to fully recover those costs), but the assertion that the shortfall is driven by the City not charging enough to developers **is inaccurate**. ZBAs and Subdivisions are exceeding cost recovery by substantial margins. Minor Variances and Zoning Clearances are falling short.

As your community building partners we trust you will understand the reasoning for our request. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at any time.

Thank you,



**Victoria Mortelliti**  
Manager, Policy and Advocacy

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*The Building Industry and Land Development Association is an advocacy and educational group representing the building, land development and professional renovation industry in the Greater Toronto Area. BILD is the largest home builders' association in Canada, and is affiliated with the Ontario Home Builders' Association and the Canadian Home Builders' Association. It's 1,500 member companies consists not only of direct industry participants but also of supporting companies such as financial and professional service organizations, trade contractors, as well as manufacturers and suppliers of home-related products.*