

City Clerk's Office
John D. Elvidge, City Clerk

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via e-mail: PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Planning Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Re: ERO 026-0305

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Changes to Various Regulations Under the Planning Act to Facilitate the Electronic Submission of Information and Materials to Approval Authorities and Allow Notices to be Given Electronically to the Province.

The City Clerk's Office, City of Toronto is generally supportive of the Provincial Government's move towards digital notification and submission processes. Removing the requirement for original hard copies to be provided to the Ministry, and allowing notices of complete application, public meeting and passing/adoption to be provided to the Ministry by electronic means will reduce paper consumption, the cost of first-class mail, and risks of delays. It is also our current practice.

Our office respectfully asks for the implementation of any changes to how notice is provided to the Ministry, to be in the form of a generic email address for the regional director of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing responsible for the City of Toronto.

A generic email address would ensure continuity regardless of staffing changes at the Ministry, and reduce the risk that notice is not deemed received in accordance with the timelines set out in the Act.

We also welcome the removal of the requirement for physical original or certified true copies of documents as part of records compiled by the clerk for the approval authority, where the approval authority is the Minister. We respectfully request that the Ministry continue to accept our records electronically via email.

We would be pleased to review any detailed drafts of changes to the regulations, and discuss implementation if changes are brought into effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF Forkes".

Jennifer Forkes,
Manager, Community Councils and Committee
City Clerks Office, City of Toronto