PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS UPDATE FOR RESIDENTIAL REZONINGS CONSISTENT WITH THE OCP

What is changing?

In light of recent changes made by the Province to the *Local Government Act* (LGA) that prohibit local governments from holding public hearings for certain residential developments, the City is no longer allowed to hold a public hearing on a proposed rezoning bylaw if:

- 1. An Official Community Plan (OCP) is in effect for the subject area;
- 2. The zoning bylaw is consistent with the OCP (i.e. an OCP amendment bylaw is not required);
- 3. The sole purpose of the bylaw is to permit a development that is in whole or part residential; and
- 4. The gross floor area (GFA) of the residential component is more that 50% of the development's GFA.

What this means to you as a member of the public?

The City will no longer be permitted to hold a Public Hearing for a rezoning which meets the above criteria. The City will provide a notice to the public (newspaper ad) when an application and related bylaw is being brought forward to Council for consideration with no public hearing.

What do I do when I receive a notice from the City Clerks department on a rezoning application where there will be no Public Hearing?

Members of the public may make written submissions, via the Corporate Officer, which can be accepted up to 12:00 of the day of the Council meeting where a rezoning application is being considered. This will be communicated by new signage at the Public Input Period sign-up sheet and on the City's website. Members of the public may still make general submissions about development in the City but not in-person at a Public Input Period specific to a rezoning bylaw which meets the Provincial criteria for prohibiting a Public Hearing as identified above. Where such a zoning bylaw or amendment to the zoning bylaw will not be going to Public Hearing, written submissions are the only means by which the public may address the bylaw.

How else can I provide input on a rezoning application that no longer requires a Public Hearing?

The City posts information on development applications on its public website and encourages applicants to notify the public about the application and conduct Preliminary Public Consultation before submitting an application which may involve mail-outs and door-to-door visits or a neighbourhood meeting. Applicants are then also asked to hold Developer

Information Sessions so that the public can share early input. Input that is received through these processes is summarized in a Public Consultation Summary that will be included in the Staff Report that goes to Council when the application is considered.

The City will also continue to require the applicant to post a sign on the property to provide notice that there is a rezoning application that is being considered by the City. The sign will provide information on the proposed development as well as contact information if you wish to get in touch with the applicant or the assigned Planner working on the application.