

November 16, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.  
Premier of Ontario  
Office of the Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Resolution from the City of Waterloo passed November 14, 2022, re: Bill 23**

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Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Waterloo at its Council meeting held on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 resolved as follows:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario's Bill 23 – “More Homes Built Faster” Act recently passed Second Reading and is now open for comment; and

WHEREAS Bill 23 is a significant piece of legislation that would, if passed, be highly consequential to land use planning at both the City and Regional level, significantly altering municipal responsibilities, restricting appeals, decreasing review timelines and eliminating public consultation for plans of subdivision; and

WHEREAS Bill 23 would have highly consequential financial implications to the City of Waterloo with respect to funding infrastructure and growth, as well as creating staffing pressures related to shifting Regional planning responsibilities, leading to an increased tax burden on ratepayers in the City; and

WHEREAS Bill 23 has far reaching impacts related to environmental protections, ranging from challenges in meeting Regional planning objectives such as the Countryside Line, to limiting of the City's ability to implement Green Development Standards, to restrictions of Conservation Authorities and reduced protections for wetlands; and

WHEREAS the City of Waterloo acknowledges the affordable housing crisis and is in the process of creating the City's first ever Affordable Housing Strategy; and

WHEREAS City of Waterloo staff are preparing comments on Bill 23 that will be submitted to the Province prior to the November 24<sup>th</sup> deadline, however the timing of introduction of Bill 23 does not permit ample opportunity for newly elected City of Waterloo Council to appropriately assess the significant changes proposed and provide their commentary, given their inaugural meeting is November 21<sup>st</sup> and their first regular meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Big City Mayors have requested that the Government of Ontario extend the comment period on Bill 23, to allow for full municipal participation, in recognition of twelve newly-elected Mayors in Ontario, including in the City of Waterloo;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Waterloo requests the Government of Ontario to defer clause-by-clause review of Bill 23 at committee stage until such time as further evaluation and analysis by the incoming City of Waterloo Council has occurred; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to local and area MPP's, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Big City Mayors, and to the Region of Waterloo and local area municipalities.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Julie Scott  
City Clerk, City of Waterloo

CC (by email):

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Catherine Fife, M.P.P (Waterloo)  
Laura Mae Lindo, M.P.P (Kitchener Centre)  
Brian Riddell, M.P.P (Cambridge)  
Jess Dixon, M.P.P (Kitchener-South Hespeler)  
Mike Harris, M.P.P (Kitchener-Conestoga)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Big City Mayors

William Short, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Danielle Manton, Clerk, City of Cambridge  
Amanda Fusco, Clerk, City of Kitchener  
Ashley Sage, Clerk, Township of North Dumfries  
Grace Kosch, Clerk, Township of Wellesley  
Arthur Flach, Clerk, Township of Wilmot  
Jeff Smith, Clerk, Township of Woolwich