



**A Proud Past, A Bright Future**

The Honourable Linda Jeffrey  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2E5

March 11, 2013

Subject: *The Planning Act:*  
Clarifying the Role of Proponents in the Planning Process

Dear Minister Jeffrey:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you, as Minister responsible for *The Planning Act*, consider providing direction clarifying the role of proponents in any planning process leading to the creation or amendment of Official Plans under the *Act*. The principal aim of those clarifications would be to help ensure the end results of planning processes are seen to be above reproach.

By way of background, the attached letter to City of Ottawa Councillor Scott Moffatt, outlines a number of concerns The Richmond Village Association Inc. has with the Community Design Plan for Richmond and seeks his action to remedy those concerns. Central to those concerns is how the process leading to the creation of Richmond's Community Design Plan(CDP) was funded and carried forward into Ottawa's Official Plan. In brief, the community planning design process for Richmond Village was funded by a developer. Residents and City staff participated in the CDP's development but the CDP's funding by the developer gave undue influence and control to the developer's interests. Factually, whether the results were skewed in favour of the developer or not, in the eyes of the residents of Richmond, the resulting plan is not above reproach and does not adequately reflect the views of the residents of Richmond Village. Having a developer fund such an important process is not in the public interest.

It is on this last point that we are seeking your intervention to ensure that all processes under *The Planning Act*, now and in the future, are conducted in a manner that is seen to be above reproach.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Wagdin  
President, Richmond Village Association Inc.

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Cc Premier Kathleen Wynne  
Jack MacLaren MPP  
Mayor Jim Watson  
Councillor Scott Moffatt