

AIRD & BERLIS LLP

Barristers and Solicitors

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Our File No. 115947

BY EMAIL: regionalclerk@york.ca

Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
The Regional Municipality of York
Corporate Services Department
York Region Administrative Building
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

**Re: City of Markham Official Plan
Special Regional Council Meeting – June 12, 2014
Our Client: E. Manson Investments Limited**

We are the solicitors for E. Manson Investments Limited. Our client owns lands located north of Major Mackenzie Drive and east of Highway 48 in the North Markham area. These lands are proposed to be designated Countryside and Greenway in the adopted Markham Official Plan.

On behalf of our client, we have expressed concern with the policies pertaining to the Countryside and Greenway designations in the Official Plan. Of particular concern to our client is the absence of any policies or mapping notes that would ensure that the Markham Official Plan adequately protects the opportunity for future urban expansion within the Countryside designation.

Our client's settlement of its appeals of both the Region of York Official Plan as well as ROPA 3 (documented through Minutes of Settlement executed with the Region and reflected in the Ontario Municipal Board decisions) required a number of policy changes to ensure that lands that were not currently identified for urban expansion purposes would nonetheless be protected for the opportunity for future urban designations under the York Region Official Plan. The Minutes of Settlement with the Region of York require the Region to ensure that local municipal official plans, including Markham's, conform with the policies introduced into the York Region Official Plan addressing this issue.

Map 1 of the approved York Region Official Plan notes that lands identified as Agricultural are subject to both the agricultural policies in the York Official Plan as well as policy 5.1.12 in the Region's Plan. Regional policies 5.1.12 (i) and (j) recognize that future urban expansions may occur on lands that, in the case of the Markham Official Plan, are proposed to be designated as Countryside. Policy 5.1.12(j), moreover, directs both the Region and local municipalities (including Markham) to protect for the opportunity for new community areas and employment lands within these lands.

We request that Regional Council respond to our client's concern by requiring an amendment to the Markham Official Plan prior to approval that would ensure both conformity with the foregoing policies and mapping in the Regional Official Plan and compliance with the Minutes of Settlement with the Region.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP



Patricia A. Foran

PAF/jc

c. E. Manson Investments Limited

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