



**THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**

Resolution No.:

Title: Municipal Housing Pledges and Targets, Strong Mayor Powers and Building Faster Fund

Date: October 10, 2023

Moved by: Councillor C. Somerville

Seconded by: Councillor J. Racinsky

Item No.

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has established the Building Faster Fund and offered Strong Mayor Powers to Mayors of Municipalities that meet or exceed the housing targets;

AND WHEREAS these Province is offering special powers and duties of heads of council that pledge to meet housing Targets;

AND WHEREAS housing target for Halton Hill is 9500 new homes completed by 2031 mainly in the area known as "Vision Georgetown", a new urban area originally approved by Town Council in 2009 but will likely not see significant new units started until 2025;

AND WHEREAS the ability of Halton Hills to meet the housing target will be difficult due to matters not within our control such as water/wastewater capacities or OLT hearings and other agencies that are still working towards completion of planning approvals needed to begin construction;

AND WHEREAS the delay in significant housing starts will likely mean that the Town will not qualify for any funding from the Building Faster Fund;

AND WHEREAS Strong Mayor powers include the capacity to veto some decisions of Council, the ability to pass and repeal bylaws with only one-third support of Council, the power to propose and adopt Municipal budgets, the

faculty to hire, dismiss and direct senior staff to develop policy proposals, the authority to create or re-organize municipal departments and the power to create committees and choose the chairs of same;

AND WHEREAS advancing the power of Mayors while depleting authority and powers from Councils undermines the ability of Ward Councillors to effectively represent their constituencies, diminishes local representation and is undemocratic;

AND WHEREAS no public consultation or debate with elected Councils or citizens was undertaken in devising or enacting these fundamental changes to our governance;

AND WHEREAS the Province asserts these powers will allow more homes to be built but no evidence has been provided to support this claim;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor is required to sign a housing pledge by OCTOBER 15, 2023 which will grant her Strong Mayor Powers if she agrees to adopt the housing pledge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Halton Hills Council opposes the Strong Mayor Powers and asks that the Government of Ontario reconsider this legislation;

AND FURTHER THAT if the stated goal of this legislation is to construct more housing in Ontario, this can be accomplished through other means including amendments of the Planning Act and funding of more affordable housing;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town supports the need to get homes built quicker but consideration must be given to Municipalities that will not qualify for the Building Faster Fund like Halton Hills that have constraints to commencing significant development;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province commit to making up the shortfalls of development charges, cash in lieu of parkland and other funding tools as part of making “municipalities whole”;

AND FURTHER THAT the Region of Halton continue to expeditiously plan and deliver, the servicing capacity to Halton Hills to allow us to give our best efforts to reaching our housing targets by 2031;

AND FURTHER THAT the CAO and Town staff be directed to continue to look for any potential surplus properties the Town owns that could be repurposed for housing and encourage gentle intensification to enable and expedite additional residential units in existing residential areas;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Mayor to send a letter, communicating Council's opposition to the Strong Mayor Powers to the Premier of Ontario and to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be distributed to the leaders of all parties represented in the Legislature, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, all Halton municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Mayor Ann Lawlor