March 28, 2011

City of Hamilton
Office of the City Clerk
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Attention: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee

Subject: GRIDS AND THE URBAN OFFICIAL PLAN

I would like to be a delegation at the April 5, 2011, planning committee meeting to address the matter of the Minister’s decision and the Urban Hamilton Office Plan. This is in regards to GRIDS and the Elfrida node

Thank you for your consideration of my request,

DeSozio Homes Ltd.

Nando DeCaria
President
March 28, 2011

City of Hamilton
Office of the City Clerk
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Attention: Mayor Bob Bratina and Members of City Council

Subject: GRIDS AND THE URBAN OFFICIAL PLAN

Dear Mayor Bratina.

We are writing to you as owners of land within the “Elfrida node”

The Province has deleted the reference in the Urban Official Plan to Elfrida as a Future Urban Area. The recognition of Elfrida as a “Future Urban Growth District” evolved from GRIDS, GRIDS recognized Elfrida as a Future Urban Area. GRIDS was your comprehensive growth management strategy for long range planning. In addition to GRIDS the city used a LEAR study (which identified viable prime agricultural areas and rural areas) to come to that same conclusion.

The Province participated in the city’s GRIDS study. The Province referred to GRIDS as a “model” of review, and now it backtracks on that compliment by removing all of its recommendations for urban expansions.

In 2008, the Province deleted the reference to Elfrida as a Future Urban Area in the Rural Official Plan. In response, you dealt with the intent of a future expansion in the Urban OP as it is an urban matter. It was never being removed entirely, because it was based on your GRIDS recommendation.

In 2009, City Council reaffirmed the recognition of Elfrida as a Future Urban Area when it adopted the Urban OP.
In 2009, City Council reaffirmed the recognition of Elfrida as a Future Urban Area when it adopted the Urban OP.

The Province proposed modifications to the Urban OP in January 2010 which the City fundamentally accepted. The Province’s proposed modifications did not contemplate the removal of “Elfrida Area” as a “Future Growth District”.

City Staff acknowledged in a report dated April 20, 2007 that “too many essential decisions for servicing and growth within the current urban boundary rely on the GRIDS strategy for it to be ignored by Official Plan documents in the interim.” Council reacted by including the GRIDS recommendations in the Rural Official Plan.

Hamilton City Council, through two terms of Council has been strongly committed and consistent with its support of the GRIDS process and recommendations. Council reaffirmed this commitment through the wording of the New Official Plan. Hamilton needs to be able to plan its long term infrastructure to meet the needs of the growth requirements of the City as designated in The Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan.

At this late stage, it is inappropriate for the Province to remove the results of GRIDS growth management strategy and the reference to Elfrida as the future growth area from Hamilton’s Official Plan.

We ask this Council to respect the decisions made by the previous Councils with regard to GRIDS and set the direction of the New Official Plan in order that the City continue to move forward with a consistent and logical growth plan. We respectfully ask that Council stand up to the Provincial bureaucrats and appeal this fundamental change made to the City’s growth management strategy.

Yours truly,

DeSozio Homes Ltd.

[Signature]

Nando DeCaria
President