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GOBIND MARG CHARITABLE TRUST ONTARIO

(O/A DARBAR SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI, BRAMPTON)

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Charity BN/Registration #: 84494 5527 RR0001

January 25, 2024

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
77 Bay St, 16th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister:

This submission is being filed on behalf of Gobind Marg Charitable Trust Ontario (“Gobind Marg”) and its affiliate Gobind Sarvar, in response to the notice we received, dated December 20, 2023. The notice is regarding the review of the Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) issued for the construction of a Sikh Temple’s (“Gurdwara”) and a private school on the property located at 5253 Coleraine Dr, Brampton, ON (the “Property”).

Background of Organizations

Gobind Marg is a registered charitable organization which has been instrumental in serving the Sikh community in Canada. Gobind Marg is part of a large global charity that has established Gurdwara’s and/or private schools in 15 countries across Asia, North America, South America and Europe. In Brampton, it has a large congregation that actively participates in various community and spiritual activities, the Gobind Marg stands as a pillar of support and guidance for many. Gobind Sarvar, affiliated with Gobind Marg, operates a private school offering education from kindergarten to high school. Currently, over 300 students are enrolled in this institution, which is temporarily housed but thriving due to the dedicated efforts of the staff and management. The students and staff are eagerly awaiting the completion of the construction of their new school on the Property.

Challenges in Construction

The initiation of construction faced significant hurdles, predominantly in securing a competent and experienced Planner, Architect, and engineering firm. The intricate requirements of designing educational institutions, like ours, necessitated a partner with specialized expertise. This led us to engage Snyder Architects, renowned for their work with the Toronto District School Board and the Halton District School Board. The time invested in this essential step was to ensure that the foundations of our project met the highest standards of quality and compliance.

The Sikh Gurdwara being planned for this site is to be akin to a jewel for the city of Brampton, which will be monumental for decades to come. Specialized Architects from India have been secured to plan and design the exterior shell of this building. August of last year a team of Architects came to Canada for co-ordination meetings between the local architects and overall urban design for this site. All these co-ordination efforts and searching for the right team for this site have led to delays in filing a formal application. However, as noted, we have now retained a new Architect and will be advancing the required subsequent approvals, working in unison with the City of Brampton and External Commenting Agencies.



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International Reputation and Design Emphasis

We want to emphasize, as an organization we have experience in building Gurdwara's and schools with success in every country where we have started our projects. Gobind Marg and Gobind Sarvar are internationally recognized for their significant contributions to community development, having established Gurdwaras and schools across the globe. Examples of our work include most recent completion of the Gobind Sarvar Secondary School Calgary and ongoing work at the Spiritual University in Punjab, India. The construction project at the Property is the most ambitious project attempted by Gobind Marg, and the only one it has started during the Covid period anywhere in the world. The focus has always been on excellence in design and construction, ensuring that each project is not only functional but also a symbol of our cultural and spiritual values. The proposed temple in Brampton, Ontario is envisioned to be one of the largest in Canada, reflecting our commitment to creating a landmark of cultural significance.

Progress and Commitment

Despite the challenges, including those presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made considerable progress. Plans to make provisions for Temporary structures have been advanced with a Pre-Application Meeting to be scheduled, and comprehensive studies have been commenced for submission to the city and external commenting agencies. Our team has engaged in multiple consultations with city staff, with the most recent ones in November 2023, moving us closer to the final submission of our plans. We anticipate that these will be completed as expeditiously as possible, upon completion of the Pre-Application Consultation process. Enclosed within are copies of our drawings and studies shared with the city, to date.

Prejudice to Community

While reviewing our submissions we ask that you please consider the prejudice to Gobind Marg, Gobind Sarvar, and the local community. These organizations are not "for profit" private organizations, rather they are charities and not-for-profits. We are funded solely by our congregation's donations and do not rely of any social assistance. Beyond being a resource for our congregation we try to be a pillar of support to the local community. An example of this is during the Covid-19 lockdowns we rented mobile kitchens to prepare thousands of meals each week which were then distributed to all those in need within the surrounding community.

The revocation or amendment of the MZO will have a disastrous impact on our organizations and the funds donated by the congregation. The funds were donated so that we can have a permanent place of worship in Brampton and a place our children can obtain high quality private education that is



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subsidized. The prejudice to our congregation could not be compensated for in any other way or alternative if the MZO were to be revoked.

Conclusion and Appeal

In light of the above, and considering the monumental nature of this project, which is poised to significantly contribute to the cultural and educational landscape of the City and the Province, we earnestly request that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing refrains from revoking or amending the MZO granted to us. Our commitment remains unwavering, and we are poised to overcome the initial setbacks to build a remarkable and enduring legacy.

We appreciate your consideration and remain available for any further information or discussions that may assist in your review.

Respectfully,

GOBIND MARG CHARITABLE TRUST ONTARIO

Raghbir Chaggar
President,

Enclosures:

- Schedule "A"- List of completed studies
- Schedule "B"- Phase One ESA Report
- Schedule "C"- Phase One ESA
- Schedule "D"- Transportation Impact Study
- Schedule "E"- Hydrogeological Investigation
- Schedule "F"- Geotechnical Investigation Report
- Schedule "G"- Stormwater Report
- Schedule "H"- Stage 1 and 2 Archeological Assessment
- Schedule "I"- Noise/Air/Dust Study
- Schedule "J"- Original concept design
- Schedule "K"- Revised concept design (2023)
- Schedule "L"- Correspondence with the City of Brampton

A

List of Studies Completed

Study	Firm	Date Completed
ESA Phase 1	Peace Environmental	Feb-2015
ESA Phase 1	Fortis Environmental	Feb-2022
Traffic Impact Study	Paradigm Transport Solutions Ltd	Mar-2020
Hydro Geological	HLV2K Engineering	Jan-2018
GeoTechnical	HLV2K Engineering	Jan-2019
Fuctional Servicing and Stormwater Management	Aquafor Beech	Aug-2020
Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological	Archaeological Consultants & Contractors	Sep-2019
Noise/Air/Dust/Odour Study	CCS Engineering Inc	Feb-2020