



July 30, 2020

Councillor Maureen Cassidy  
Chair – Planning and Environment Committee  
City of London

**Re: Request to Waive Fees for City-wide Planning Application (London Food Bank)**

This letter is to request that Municipal Council waive the planning application fees associated with the London Food Bank's upcoming application for amendment to the Z.-1 Zoning By-law (and potentially the Official Plan) that would apply City-wide. The amendment is aimed at eliminating a current barrier in the Zoning By-law that effectively prevents the construction of greenhouses as accessory uses on industrial and institutional lands throughout the City of London.

We recognize and respect that it is not appropriate for City Council to evaluate the application at this time – as it will undergo a full planning process, including due notification, public participation and full deliberation by Council in the near future. However, we do believe this is the correct time to request that the fees associated with this application be waived, as we are prepared to submit our planning application in the very near future.

We believe that the application has unique qualities and is clearly aimed at specific public interests that warrant Council directing staff to waive the standard planning application fees. These are as follows:

1. The application is to apply city-wide – with the goal of removing an existing regulation in the Zoning By-law that serves as a barrier to growing food in greenhouses in industrial and institutional area across the entire city.
2. The application is not related to a profit motive on an individual property or any other private interest. Rather, it is clearly a public interest initiative aimed at growing food in London to supply to vulnerable Londoners.
3. The application is intended to assist with recovery from the current and upcoming economic hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. By the London Food Bank launching this application, a current "flaw" in the zoning by-law can be addressed and Council's Urban Agriculture Strategy can be implemented, while relieving

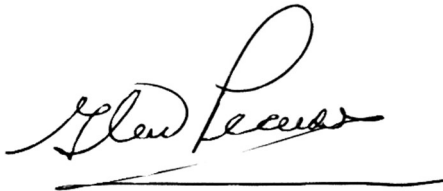
Council and Staff from launching its own policy review and City-initiated Zoning amendment – saving City staff time, cost, and potential delay due to lengthy work programs.

We believe that these factors make our application clearly distinct from others and clearly in the general public interest for the City of London – as it applies to the city as a whole, is unrelated to profit motive, is directed at COVID recovery for the City of London and relates to feeding vulnerable Londoners.

We hope that Council will consider these factors and formally direct Staff to waive the fees for this planning application. We are planning to submit our application in August and a Council direction prior to that date would be extremely helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Glen Pearson  
Co-executive Director, London Food Bank

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Roy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jane Roy  
Co-executive Director, London Food Bank

cc: Mayor Ed Holder  
Deputy Mayor – Jesse Helmer  
Cathy Saunders – City Clerks Office  
Barb Westlake-Power – City Clerks Office  
Michael Shulthess – City Clerks Office  
George Kotsifas – Development and Compliance Services  
Michael Tomazincic – Development and Compliance Services  
Gregg Barrett – Planning Services