

April 15, 2010

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
315 King St. W.
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 5K8

Attention: Municipal Clerk

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Medd Development/Pomajba - St. Clair St. Extension

In regards to the above mentioned file, the Board of Directors of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, wishes to provide this written statement for consideration.

As a matter of principle, it is understood that our Chamber of Commerce welcomes development and the opportunity for growth in business and as a Municipality overall. In such development, it is ideal to consider the long term advantages and planning as such.

We understand the need and desire to complete the plan of development to Pioneer Road and filling the voids that currently exist in land mass between the residential area of Chatham and current business development. It is of great concern to us, however, should further considerations be made beyond any of the current exterior westerly or northerly boundaries proposed for development, thereby encroaching into additional farm lands and costing taxpayers for enhanced traffic and roadway support.

As recent as last week, it has been stated by some Council members that the downtown core of Chatham is being recognized as *'the entertainment district'* which will attract many tourists and Chatham-Kent citizens alike. We highly support this concept. With recent announcements centred in the BIA, and with more plans for expansion and enhancement of business, venues and destinations in this area, we deem this as a healthy, viable initiative overall. With the opportunity to improve the attraction and ambience of the river, and with Chatham Capitol Theatre, Cinema 6 and Kiwanis Theatre cementing the perimeters, the downtown will be a magnetic destination for all.

In recognizing this concept, we would encourage Council to consider the overall picture of our business landscape. In this reflection, it is recommended that St. Clair Street development becomes *'a shopping district'* to compliment the downtown entertainment districts of our communities and add value to fellow shopping destinations. It is recognized that commerce has made successful appeal to the consumer through 'power centres', and they are welcomed. The planning of such, however, is critical to success in all areas of our Municipality.

Trusting you will consider this information in deliberations regarding commerce and community enhancement. We look forward to working with Council in this regard.

Yours truly,

G.A. (Gail) Antaya
President & CEO

c.c. – Municipal Council