

Dated: April 13, 2025

Subject: Concern Regarding Substantial Increase in Minor Variance Application Fees

Good day, Council Committee Members, City of Brampton,

My name is Haroon Malik, and I am a designer based here in Brampton, operating from 205 Advance Blvd, since 2018. As a qualified, registered, and licensed designer in Ontario, I provide services across the province, including right here in our community.

I would like to bring to your attention a critical matter regarding the recent substantial increase in the fee for the Minor Variance application. This fee has risen dramatically from \$720 to an astounding \$11,949—nearly a 16-fold increase. While I understand that fees usually increase gradually each year, this hike seems excessive and, quite frankly, unreasonable.

From my experience working closely with homeowners, I can tell you that such high application fees create an overwhelming financial burden. These costs deter homeowners from making necessary modifications to their properties, which not only limits their ability to improve their homes but can also result in increased violations of zoning regulations and a tendency toward non-compliance with the city's by-laws.

When homeowners are confronted with prohibitive fees, they might choose to bypass official channels altogether, leading to unauthorized modifications. This has serious implications for our community, resulting in unregulated developments and safety concerns that ultimately strain the city's resources.

The most importantly, I believe our city motto emphasizes compliance and support rather than punitive measures that instill fear. It should encourage residents to engage with the process and seek the necessary approvals rather than pushing them toward non-compliance.

Therefore, I urge this council to reconsider the current fee structure for Minor Variance applications and adopt a more reasonable fee adjustment. A fair fee system would not only empower homeowners to enhance their properties but also promote adherence to zoning laws, ultimately benefiting all residents and the City of Brampton as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response and sincerely hope for a positive outcome that reflects the best interests of our community.

Best regards,



Haroon Malik (Designer)
+1 (647) 770 3230
haroon@wedesignbuild.ca