

Mayor David Barrow and Council Members
Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 3P4

Liz Rankin-Horvath
36 Willett Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 7W1

February 4, 2019

RE: Town File D02-18018

Dear Mayor Barrow and Council Members,

This submission is in support of the application from Richmond Hill Christian Community Church to amend the Zoning By-Law for lands describes as Part Lots 35 to 38, Plan 2260 and municipally known as 9640 and 9670 Bayview Avenue.

I have been a resident home owner in Richmond Hill for 17 years. I am a graduate of Richmond Hill High School (1984). I am a member of the Richmond Hill Board of Trade, and I have been attending Richmond Hill Christian Community Church (RHCCC) since early 2012.

I wish to register my support for the application.

I began attending RHCCC in 2012 after searching for years for a church I could call home and that my daughter and I could be baptized in. I immediately loved how welcoming the people were, and the multicultural focus. I also love how this church approaches education about the Bible and lives out the gospel of Jesus Christ. The people here truly are his hands and feet. They shows such love to the community here in Richmond Hill and around the world. They are involved in numerous peace missions, and host a multitude of events that are valuable to the community.

Expansion will help the church to continue meeting the needs of the community here in Richmond Hill and beyond, now and for future generations.

RHCCC is a big church, and it is impossible for me to know all that they do. I would like to give you some highlights of my personal experience with RHCCC:

- I began attending RHCCC in early 2012. I was referred to the church by my naturopath, who told me it was mostly Chinese and that it was a very good church. I am not Chinese. My background is Irish and English.
- I was pleasantly surprised to find the people so welcoming to me, right from the start.

- I was inspired by messages of the sermons and how the people walk-the-talk without, with love and compassion for others.
- I attended Bible study there to learn more.
- My daughter (then 28 years old) and I were baptized there on Dec 16, 2012.
- I joined a small group called The Sparrows in May 2014.
- A few weeks later, I was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. The Sparrows showed such support. I didn't even know them yet, and several of the ladies brought me fully cooked meals twice a week for my family. They visited and prayed over me. They sent me hymns.
- Pastor RG and Deacon Helen Wong visited me in my home and prayed over me.
- I was unable to attend church for 1 ½ years during my treatment – I was able to listen to the recorded sermons and they sent me the links to the worship music so I could worship in step with what they were doing.
- I have since served alongside my spiritual bothers and sisters:
 - Planting the gardens
 - Cooking and delivering meals for others who are suffering in the community
 - Global Leadership Summit Planning Committee – my role was to connect with local Christian businesses and organize exhibits at the event, helping with registrations, and greeting delegates who attended the Summit at our church
 - Love Mercy Justice (LMJ) – this is a local caring ministry that reaches out and helps some of the neediest people in our community. I am blessed to serve with the committee. My role is to coordinate the volunteers to help with organizing and sorting at the Richmond Hill Sandgate Women's Shelter. I have included a bit more info below about the wonderful work that LMJ is doing.
 - Christians Against Poverty (CAP Canada) – Two LMJ committee members (Cecile Lach and myself) have become a certified CAP Canada Money Coaches which allows us to provide CAP Canada's training and coaching on managing a budget to people in our community who need it. We are in the very early stages of working with CAP Canada to, hopefully some day, establish a debt centre in partnership with RHCCC. CAP Canada debt centres provide free debt counselling services to those in desperate need in the community. The only other debt centre in Canada at this time is in Oakville.

About LMJ

RHCCC Love Mercy Justice Ministry (LMJ) started in 2011 as some of the ladies in RHCCC responded to the call of the church to be more "Outward focused". God opened the opportunity with the Richmond Hill Sandgate Women's Shelter whose staff welcomed us. What started as just doing grocery shopping for the residents of the Shelter, over the years evolved into helping families in need move/integrate into the town of Richmond Hill. The openness of the families further led LMJ to have friendships with the women and children. Newcomers (including refugees) from different countries were referred to us from the Shelter and from the community friends with whom LMJ Volunteers also enjoy the friendship.

LMJ activities include:

- Assistance with sorting and organizing donated items at the Richmond Hill Sandgate Women's Shelter
- Assistance with moving women and children from the Shelter into the community

- Ongoing assistance with basic needs, integration into the community, and access to information and services
- Coffee Time – a weekly gathering of women who LMJ has helped to continue to foster relationships and provide a sense of community
- Free tutoring for children – many of the children of the women who attend Coffee Time attend the tutoring
- A free tax clinic for low-income people and families
- Special holiday celebrations for the families LMJ helps: Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Summer barbeque for the families

The more we have served the more we have seen the needs of these families who have suffered so much. The more we have seen and served the more joy we have experienced with them. Some have even accepted Christ as their personal saviour! Halleluiah!

I truly love this church. I see that they will continue to do so much more to help the local community, as well as educating and preparing people for missions abroad. As the population of Richmond Hill continues to grow, RHCCC provides a welcoming atmosphere and a place for people to learn more about the Bible and to get involved in serving the needs of others. The additional space will be very beneficial.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Liz Rankin-Horvath