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Dave Barrow, Mayor, Richmond Hill  
Tom Muench, Councillor, Richmond Hill  
David West, Councillor, Richmond Hill  
Karen Cilevitz, Councillor, Richmond Hill  
Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services  
Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning

**RE: SRPRS.19.054 – Proposed Repeal of By-Law 23-17 Adopting amendment No.6 to the Richmond Hill Official Plan (Downtown Local Centre Secondary Plan)**

Living with my family in Richmond Hill since 1986, I have been for a long time, a citizen interested in the past, enjoying the present and concerned about the future of the historic core of our soon to be city. I would like to be part of the re-consideration process of the municipal plan for the downtown area; although the vision of the soon to be repealed Secondary Plan approved only two years ago after an elaborate process of public, professional and political consideration, still reflects my fundamental convictions:

1. The future appearance of the downtown core should pay respect to the historic foundations of our soon to be “city on the hill”, as still expressed in the three old church buildings with their spires, the renovated old post office of 1937, the “Three Coins” diner of the 1950’s, the former carriage factory on the corner of Yonge and Lorne and a few more old buildings and facades.
2. The future appearance of the downtown core should help the growing population of our city to recognize a sense of identity, mainly living in an unique place “on the hill”, like expressed in our logo.
3. The downtown core should become a public gathering place, where the citizens of Richmond Hill come together, like already done successfully through the RH Centre for Performing Arts. A system of courtyards, lanes and small parks is essential in making the downtown core not just a traffic throughway, but an inviting pedestrian place.
4. The future Downtown Local Centre Secondary Plan should strengthen the incentives for the landowners to develop their properties in an economically profitable way and to also serve the public needs. Mixed use of their buildings, but together part of the whole downtown identity, seems to be the right path.

None of these four fundamental goals has in my opinion a prime or even exclusive priority. What is needed, is a balance between them, which serves the “common good”. This insight is asking for the willingness of all involved parties to be willing to listen and understand each other. Only a balanced compromise based on shared values will lead to good planning and thus to a city to be proud of.