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20 April 2020

Dear Sirs and Ms Cilevitz,

Mayor Dave Barrow <dave.barrow@richmondhill.ca>,
Regional Councillor Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>,
Regional Councillor Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>,
Tom Meunch <tom.meunch@richmondhill.ca> ,
Greg Beros <greg@gregberos.com>,
Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>,
David West <david.west@richmondhill.ca>,
Karen Cilevitz <karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca>,
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Please Pass Councillor David West's LPAT Related Motion of 22 April 2020

I request that this correspondence be included in the public record for the Richmond Hill city council meeting of 22 April 2020.

I am writing in support of Councillor West's motion to direct Staff to request an adjournment from LPAT of the Yonge/Bernard KDA matters, currently scheduled for "some time in July" and implore members of Council to pass his motion to ask for a date after 30 October 2020.

This message is also sent as a follow up to an e-mail, with attachments, from myself to members of Council, planning staff and local Members of Provincial Parliament regarding related matters on 13 April 2020. Said email expressed concerns from myself and members of the Yonge Bernard Residents Association regarding proposed changes to the Yonge/Bernard KDA plan. Those concerns are based on information which is still privileged and still being held from the public at large at this point. Meanwhile, you are currently scheduled to vote on those revisions on 13 May 2020, during the middle of this pandemic!

With current timelines public input will be *perfunctory*, and almost scandalously so if public participation in proceedings is only by residents capable of video conferencing. Residents do not have the I.T. staff that Council and the Developers who lobby Council do. Fair public access is not realistic and it is clearly inequitable to expect public voice to exist only via video-conferencing apps that most people are unfamiliar with or don't have access to.

Allowing LPAT related urgency to suppress public access and transparency during an unprecedented pandemic, when David West presents a way to avoid it, would be *transparently* unfair. The right thing to do is for Council to ask LPAT for the reasonable adjournment he advocates for. The wrong thing to do is to keep using a timeline, *originally based on a 22 June hearing date that no longer exists*, to rush a vote on massive planning changes "under cover of pandemic".

In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that after this pandemic, it is quite possible that urban planning in general might move in different directions. Look up "how will urban planning change after the pandemic" for ideas as to how they could. The "old assumptions" might change in any number of ways

I will close with an excerpt from the last e-mail exchange between myself and a local MPP pursuant to my original 13 April e-mail (all of you were copied):

As for your trust that Council will act in the best interests of the residents of Richmond Hill, I myself have utmost confidence in some of them to actually do so. As for others, less so based on the history of how we got to the situation where we are today. We have a fundamentally different Secondary plan being proposed on account of the balance of this current Council, which chose not to defend the old one instead of capitulating to developers in the first place on 16 April 2019.

I'm hoping the balance of Councillors have modified their views since then, or that they will at least allow residents a full and fair chance to review and respond to the fundamentally new plan being proposed.

Please do the right thing. Support Councillor David West's motion.

All the above is respectfully submitted.

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John Li,
Sheila Wang