

From: Mida, Deborah

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:15 PM

To: mparsa@michaelparsa.ca; Dave Barrow <dave.barrow@richmondhill.ca>

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Subject: Yonge/Bernard KDA: Please respond to the following concerns

Dear Mayor Barrow, MPP Daisy Wai and MPP Michael Parsa,

I am writing to ask for your support to ensure the democratic process is followed and not ignored during this unprecedented time in our province. On April 2, the Yonge/Bernard Residents Ass. (YRA) received a draft planning revision Memo for the Yonge-Bernard KDA. Its contents are of grave concern to the impact of our community. On May 13, Richmond Hill council is meeting to vote on the KDA draft plan which include these revisions. Planning has shared their justification for the immediacy of the vote is to prepare for LPAT so that they have some control of the final plan. LPAT is following the new provincial regulation and is suspending hearings currently to June 30.

The hope and desire of Ontarians is that we will be back to some normalcy soon; however, it seems this will not be around the corner given Premier Ford has extended the Emergency Act for another 28 days and Prime Minister Trudeau's caution that it will come back in stages. The urgency of everyone in our community, like all Canadians, is to keep themselves and loved ones safe and healthy, and survive economically. Social distancing and 'stay at home' pleas do not provide opportunity for residents to be informed of these newest and problematic revisions.

I do not trust the City truly has the best interests of its constituents and the importance of following due process in the forefront. YRA residents requested the City postpone the KDA vote until such time that the community has opportunity to digest the proposal and respond. The City has now postponed the meeting from April 22 to May 13. I believe they will have an electronic conference system available to the public on May 13 to participate. There is an assumption that all residents have the equipment and technology skills to use this system, highly unlikely, therefore denying fair access to participate. Even without taking this barrier into account, a 3 week postponement does not fundamentally alter the barriers to the public presented by Covid-19. We are still in a state of emergency and undoubtedly, people will need time to recover and move forward from this pandemic crises. The threat of the vote looming to pass the draft KDA revisions and circumventing 'fair' community participation is concerning. Given this, I question if the City has acted to represent it's constituents by making a formal request to LPAT to adjourn the KDA hearing. This should be the first priority. On behalf of our community, I ask for your help. Please request LPAT adjourn the Bernard KDA, now slated in early July, until public concerns and issues are heard and resolved. Residents have the right to have their voices respected and heard.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards and be well,

Debbie Mida

Be a Voice, not an echo.