

From: Juliana Jiang

Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:11 PM

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Subject: Immediate Action Against the 41 Storey KDA Plan

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I would like to make this statement as both a citizen of Richmond Hill and an architecture student. The plan to build condo towers exceeding 40 storeys in the Yonge and Canyon Hill/Bernard area should not be passed. It is a blatant action of disregard for the surrounding environment, infrastructure, as well as the residents. The annual population growth rate of Richmond Hill is 2.66%/year. The decision to erect a high rise in this location would introduce up to 8000 new residents, equivalent to 3.4% of the current population of Richmond Hill and significantly higher than the current rate of growth without enough corresponding efforts to improve the infrastructure.

Currently, this area of the city accommodates detached single-family homes, townhouses, and retirement homes. The two major secondary schools (St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS and Richmond Hill High School) have faced overpopulation issues for two years and the trend continues. The act of building is that of serving the citizens and improving their quality of life. Proceeding to allow this high rise in the area will only promote a false image of comfort while the residents will face the harsh reality that their children will be turned away from schools due to overcrowding, an unfortunate tradition already occurring at St. Theresa.

Despite the road-widening initiatives and construction of the YRRTC's vivaNext Rapidway, the truth of the situation is that it is not sufficient to ease the drastic population growth and the issues reflected in transportation. Based on the 2016 Richmond Hill census, more than half of those who commute to work do not utilize the public transit system. Of the entire population of Richmond Hill, a mere 4% use public transit to get to work. Since the commencement of the vivaNext Rapidway service, it is not uncommon to see empty stations one after another along Yonge St.

The current residents understand the situation from a first-hand perspective, and are working to prevent such issues from arising for the new residents and the community as a whole. Hence, the decision to build at 41 storeys should be stopped immediately. It will spark a chain of conflicts, and does not reflect the ideals of a developer striving to improve citizens' lifestyles and the image of the city of Richmond Hill.

Thank you for your time,

Juliana