

From: Vijay Nadarasa Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:17 PM  
To: Jeff Healey <jeff.healey@richmondhill.ca>  
Subject: 0 Elgin Mills Road East – City file D03-20003

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am a Richmond Hill Hindu Temple Life Member and Devotee. I am writing this letter to oppose the condo high rise buildings being developed at 0 Elgin Mills Road East (Bayview ave & Elgin mills). Our Temple Towers were architecturally designed in accordance with Hindu scripture and the spiritual significance of the Towers great height is critical to practicing the Hindu faith. The development of a high rise would obstruct the view of the Temple Towers, in direct contradiction to our faith.

The Richmond Hill Hindu Temple is one of the largest Hindu Temples in North America and attracts devotees and visitors from around the world. We now fear that high-rise condo towers being developed at 0 Elgin Mills Road East will interfere with our ability to practice our religion and will cause a disturbance around the sacred Temple grounds. Most of the devotees who attend the temple worry that if the high-rise condo is allowed to be built higher than our Temple Towers, the view of the Towers will be significantly obstructed. This is in direct contradiction to our beliefs which requires that the Towers be visible in every direction from afar. We also fear our children and grandchildren will not be encouraged to learn and practice our religion in the same manner that we currently practice our religion. The north east portion of the proposed high rise property also contains wetlands and a natural heritage system associated with a tributary of Rouge River which will be affected by pollution due increase in traffic caused by the increase in the population density. It may also increase crime in that area. It is common practice and a part of our tradition that Hindu women and children wear jewelry to the Temple during religious festivals and will fear for their safety when attending the temple if crime rates in the area increase. Indeed, the Temple has recently suffered from such incidents due to the growing population in the surrounding area.

I thank our Richmond Hill Mayor and Councilors for allowing us to observe and practice our religion in the past without obstruction or disturbance. I hope that Richmond Hill will remain committed to building a community that promotes diversity and inclusion and respects our right to practice our faith without obstruction and in accordance with our cultural and religious beliefs. I hope the Mayor and the councilors understand our concerns with the construction of this high-rise condo building and will address our concern with the construction of this property in a manner that would obstruct the view of the Temple Towers.

Thank You,

Vijayakumaran Nadarasa  
Life Member and Devotee,  
Richmond Hill Hindu Temple