

To: Councillors and Mayor of the City of Richmond Hill

From: Pat Pollock, Chairperson, Mayvern Area Residents Association

Re: Council Meeting October 28, 2020, Item 13.8

I am very concerned about some of the statements made in the staff report for the October 28, 2020 council Meeting in regard to STRAs. The following are my points:

1. The areas around us (Markham, Vaughan, Toronto) all have by-laws relating to STRAS either/or through licensing or zoning. If we do not put something in place, investors from other areas will use our neighbourhoods to operate STRAs and we will get increased problems related to them especially #1 nuisance impact, #2 safety concerns, #3 building safety issues. We need to protect ourselves by having a by-law in place.
2. If you live in a neighbourhood that has an STRA that is misused, you would want something done immediately, not wait for the Official Plan update nor the Comprehensive Zoning by-law which are years in the future. Do something NOW.
3. If hosts are contravening the licensing program and also causing neighbourhood issues, these need to be dealt with. We as residents know when these issues occur and we DO COMPLAIN. We need these hosts to be disciplined, fined, license taken away, something so that our neighbourhoods are not misused, are not destroyed. By doing nothing we have residents who do not want to live here. When you as a council do nothing, we do not support you. If a by-law is in place, you have something by which to regulate this problem. With nothing, you are consciously avoiding the issue entirely. That in itself is a reason for litigation since this issue has been researched and brought before council at least two times.
4. If you are concerned about litigation and liability if you DO something about STRAs, what do you think will happen when you do nothing? Doing nothing is not supporting your residents. Doing nothing is sweeping the problem under the rug. Doing nothing is not acting responsibly, reliably, accountably.

Conclusion:

We, as a residents group, have submitted our ideas for the Comprehensive Zoning by-law on this and other issues. As well, see the attached submission made in May 2020 concerning this matter. We want something done. Stop avoiding the issue. Help us keep our neighbourhood safe and our residents safe.

Attached:

Comprehensive Zoning by-law submission on STRAs, Airbnb's.