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RE: SRPRS.19.59 – Request for Comments – Zoning By-law Amendment

There is a consensus among the public and the council of our City, that the downtown core of Richmond Hill is in need of regeneration, especially commercial revitalization.

This general agreement has led to the repeal of the Secondary Plan of the Village Core half a year ago and will be a main guide during the update of the Official Plan of 2010. The proposed changes in the Zoning By-law, focusing mainly on the challenges of parking in a historically restrained area, make sense.

But Council should be careful not to preempt with detailed zoning changes the discussion, both in the public and among its representatives, about the general vision for our downtown area. The decision process should follow the principle “from general to specific”, and not the other way around from detail to generalization.

I wholeheartedly agree with the statement in the staff report of the “aim to protect the Downtown Area’s role as the historic, symbolic, cultural and civic heart of Richmond Hill.”

(signed) Wilhelm Bleek