

Saint Mary's Anglican Church



Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021

Page 1 of 2

To the Attention of:

*Mr. STEPHEN HUYCKE
Clerk, City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P4
Email: stephen.huycke@richmondhill.ca*

Re:

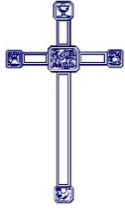
*Re: Council public meeting for Revised Zoning Application - Yeda Major
Mackenzie Inc. City file # D02-20001; Agenda 3.2 - 58 Major Mackenzie on
March 3, 2021*

Dear Mr. Clerk and Members of Council;

My name is *The Reverend Matthew McMillan*, and I am the parish priest of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Richmond Hill. Our church is an abutting property to the lands and development under review currently. I write to thank Members of Council and City staff for your work, to ensure that the City of Richmond Hill continues to look forward, as we also celebrate our heritage and maintain our unique identity.

Our church will be 150 years old in 2022, and much has changed in our community over that period. We know that Richmond Hill has experienced multiple phases of growth since World War II. After the war, our population was only about 3,000 – 4,000. But then in the 50's Richmond Hill surged to 20,000 – 30,000 and through the years kept on growing. It is wonderful to have a community that can accommodate such growth and integrate new developments into the existing fabric of the community. It is the hope of our community that Council and staff will keep this approach as new developments are integrated into areas that are already developed.

I write this letter to you, neither endorsing nor petitioning against the current proposal for our neighbouring property, located at 58 Major Mackenzie. Our grounds and 90 parking spaces are essential in supporting our efforts as a church, that guides and



Saint Mary's Anglican Church



Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021

Page 2 of 2

nurtures the spiritual life of our members, and as a fellowship and outreach centre, that supports the social, physical, and mental wellbeing of all in our community. We keep Council in our thoughts as you weigh the benefits of the requested variances against the costs/impacts of them. Our concern and interest lie in supporting our existing residential neighbours, who are uncertain about how these changes will impact them. We ask that you work with them to ensure this development builds up, rather than divides.

As well, with the various proposed developments along the Arnold & Elizabeth corridor, we know that our community will be asked to support new development, but we believe there needs to be more clarity about what the *proposed / hypothetical / actual* traffic-plans would look like. Our community asks Council and staff to ensure public consultation will occur on this element and we encourage the City to approach the pedestrian and vehicular traffic along the proposed extension in a unified manner, to ensure continuity and harmony with the existing surroundings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the City as you undertake this important review.

Blessings, *Matthew* †
The Reverend Matthew McMillan
Parish Priest, St. Mary's Anglican Church