

April 12, 2021

Richmond Hill Council Meeting Wednesday April 14, 2021

Motion 14.1 Review of Farming and Agriculture in Richmond Hill

Councillor Tom Muench

My family has owned the 25 acre property just south of the Doner farm fronting onto Leslie Street and backing onto Hwy 404 for the past 45 years. The land has been leased by Mr. Doner for farming for all of this time.

Farming this land has become unsustainable due to the reasons put forward in Councillor Muench's motion which is before Council.

Before making any decision regarding the future use of this land it is imperative that every councillor visit the Gormley Go Station at the times when the Go train picks up and drops off passengers. The traffic jams are horrendous and if nothing is done to address this issue then not too long into the future you will have a situation that would be similar to a farm being located in the middle of the city, for example between Finch and Steeles in Toronto.

There is currently development to the north and to the south of our lands and there has been a proposal to straighten Leslie Street with a new road going right through the middle of my property. This WILL NOT alleviate ANY traffic congestion but will only make farming my land even more difficult.

As a landowner in the area I was recently interviewed for a project being done by Ryerson University to study the "Gormley Go Station Community Plan" and Council should be made aware of the results of this study before any long term decisions are made.

I therefore, urge you to support Councillor Muench's motion.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Sydney Katzman

