

From:

Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 3:54 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>; Planning Richmondhill <planning@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Affordable Housing Strategy

I know I missed the cut off to write to the Senior Planner, but I wanted to express my support for the Affordable Housing Strategy.

My husband and I moved to Richmond Hill in 2010 after graduating from college. We rented a basement apartment while I worked my way up in a small local tech company and he pursued further education. We make a decent living now, with a household income right at the Affordable Ownership threshold as outlined in the draft document, and welcomed our son in 2019. With this addition to our family, our basement apartment is no longer a suitable place to live, but we've been making do as best we can. Searching for a new home has been discouraging, as any family-sized homes available for purchase in the area start at nearly \$800,000, well above the top end of our budget. Rentals are as bad if not worse; rents for a similar apartment to ours have easily doubled in the time that we've lived here. Finding one that is both affordable and suitable for raising a family seems like an impossible task. I worry about what will happen if our landlord chooses to move his extended family into the apartment we are currently renting. He hasn't explicitly said so, but has made strong insinuations that we should be looking for a place of our own.

We work in Richmond Hill, and have built our lives and family here. We want to live here. We've been actively house hunting for the last 6 months and are disheartened by the cost of housing. We don't want to leave, but are facing the prospect of having to move upwards of an hour away from our home in order to find an affordable place to live.

I am glad the city recognizes this issue, and am encouraged by the goals as outlined in the draft Affordable Housing Strategy. Richmond Hill is listed as one of the least affordable cities in Ontario, and there is a severe lack of affordable, family-sized units. It is my sincere hope that the city will follow through on the recommendations and goals outlined in this strategy to allow families like mine to stay in the community we love.

Best regards,
Courtney Hilbig