

From: KJ Chen

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:58 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Cc: Eric Chan; KJ Chen; Sandra DeMaria sandra.demaria@richmondhill.ca

Subject: OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT OF D01-21008 and D02-21016

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to a recent request from Leslie Elgin Developments Inc, who proposed to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law for lands described as Block 51, Plan 65M-4668 and municipally known as 0 John Birchall Road. In summary, they are seeking permits to increase density drastically by building two high rise apartment buildings connected by a 4-storey podium.

As new homeowners at the townhouse complex across the street (on the other side of Leslie and William F. Bell Parkway - on Hartney Drive), we were extremely upset upon receiving the notice of Complete Applications Under the Planning Act. We moved into this new neighbourhood in April 2020 while I was pregnant with my new daughter, hoping to escape the city and live in suburban rural Richmond Hill. We loved the environment because it's a very safe and quiet area, full of green space, and not over-cluttered by density. The current neighbourhood on both sides of Leslie only comprises of detached homes, semis, and townhouses. Adding in such tall high rise buildings as proposed, will be detrimental to the area, as it will not follow the same "quiet neighbourhood look and feel", cause traffic and safety problems, create even more problems with the adjacent school that is already over-capacity, destroy local wildlife habitat, and potentially lower the property values of the existing surrounding community.

Traffic and safety of pedestrians are major areas of concern when it comes to condo buildings. Proximity to the Richmond Green highschool, Richmond Green park, Costco plaza, etc will surely cause traffic jams at the major intersection of Leslie and William F Bell Parkway. The traffic surge during morning rush hours will also negatively impact safety for children, since students walk to school in the mornings.

Wildlife has been observed in the area, and more high density development and traffic will further harm their habitat. This area is known for its conservation space, but it will not look or feel very preserved once there are high rises towering over everything. The noise and traffic caused by this level of density is far from ideal for nature preservation.

Property values are likely to go down in the area if multi-family apartments or condominiums are built. Multi family dwellings are inconsistent with the neighborhoods developed in the area. My family and I will be very disappointed that we chose to move out of a condo, just to later, live right beside one again. If it happens, we will have no choice but to leave this community. It is perfect the way it is, and should not be ruined.

Similar to what recently happened with a proposed high-rise development at Yonge and Elgin Mills, the residents were extremely concerned and displeased as such developments would ruin the skyline of the neighbourhood and cause many other harmful impacts. It didn't fit Yonge street, it for sure, would not fit an even smaller street such as Leslie. Such plans only benefits the pockets of the developers, but significantly affects the quality of life for residents of the area.

https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10072444-richmond-hill-residents-poised-to-fight-28-storey-building-proposed-at-yonge-and-elgin-mills/?li_source=L1&li_medium=you%20might%20be%20interested%20in&li_pl=47&li_tr=you%20might%20be%20interested%20in

I strongly urge you to disapprove the proposed rezoning, and from recent discussions with my neighbors, I know my opinions are shared by many who will be writing their own disapproval comments to the city soon.

Thank you for your continued service and support of our communities. I hope my family's opinion will be seriously taken into consideration. I would also like to be notified of the adoption, passing, or refusal of the proposed Official Plan Amendment or Zoning By-law Amendment.

Best regards, K.J. Chen