

June 24, 2022

Mayor David West & Members City Council
City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3P4

To : clerks@richmondhill.ca

Re: C# 28-22 / June 27, 2022
Special Council Meeting
2041 Official Plan Amendments

Mayor David West
& Members of City Council :

I have a number of concerns with materials provided to the public as staff inputs to the 2041 Draft Official Plan, for the City of Richmond Hill;
and the manner in which the public have been asked to comment on these materials on such short notice, as they relate to “Vision and City Structure”, and “Neighbourhoods”.

In a nutshell, perhaps the June 26, 1980, Ontario Municipal Board decision (Case # R 8071/Minister’s File Number OPC-0022) by Chairs Charon and Singer can best encapsulate some of these points :

“The Board finds that the proposed (Town of Richmond Hill) Official Plan does not comply with the direction and the intent of The Planning Act, in that inter alia, it is not a guide for future development, but merely recognizes existing development and leaves any future development to the subjective decisions of Council from time to time. What is proposed effectively takes the determination of land use from the provisions of The Planning Act and substitutes the sole discretion of the Council. The appeal procedures set out in The Planning Act are circumvented. The amending procedures set out in the proposed plan are designed to exclude rights protected by The Planning Act and the rules of natural justice. The procedures set out in the plan are cumbersome, expensive, lengthy and delaying. They are often contradictory.”

Almost **42 years to the day**, I would hope the culture in the City has evolved, with administrative and planning staff serving current Council moving past sharp-eyed observations necessary of a provincial tribunal adjudicating production of an earlier Official Plan.

However, the amount of time - **less than a single business day** - in which the public has been given to respond to the materials posted on the website regarding this City’s proposed new “Vision and City Structure”; and “Neighbourhoods”, smacks of a lack of courtesy, fair play and of course “natural justice”, as cited in 1980.

Going forward, this manner of **doing the people’s business** should no longer be permitted. It is unnecessarily adversarial.

I am mindful many members of this Council have during this current term, expressed concerns about lessening City monies spent in provincial land tribunals, in favour of more consultative approaches to land matters raised by residents and businesses owners.

I hope this same reasonable approach can now be taken **by first** getting staff to provide more response time for the public to thoroughly consider documents which will affect their lives and this City until 2041.

Under an expression of “natural justice”, I reserve the right to comment on materials produced for this meeting, for the next 5 business days.

Sincerely,

Carla Worden
1393 Bethesda Sideroad
Richmond Hill, ON