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January 28, 2023

City Clerk, The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill  
225 East Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4B 3P4

RE: City File: ZBLA-22-0021

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to support the application for a centre for children with autism.

Our daughter was diagnosed with autism in 2012. She joined thousands of other children on the waitlist for services through the government (now known as Ontario Autism Program). Through research we knew that it was vital for her to receive therapy as soon as possible (she was 3 years old at the time of diagnosis). We took immediate action in looking for a centre to provide her with IBI (Intensive Behavioural Intervention). Luckily, we came upon Breakthrough Autism Inc., located only 15 minutes drive from us. She is still currently doing therapy there.

We are so grateful for the services provided by the centre, especially Nancy, the director, for her knowledge in this field. She was the light guiding us through a world unknown to us. Her team handles all paperwork from the government, helped us find other available resources to help fund other therapies and are always there should we any concerns.

Through therapy, my daughter has learned how to communicate using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), daily self-care skills, strategies to cope with challenging behaviours and social skills. We are also offered parent coaching to help bring these skill sets to the home. Her therapy team also works closely with the staff and teachers in her school. They ensure that the programs she working on is also being used in the school setting.

Having a new centre for children with autism will be beneficial for the people in this community. Firstly, it will be able to provide services for the many families currently on the waitlist for therapy. It will also provide jobs for those looking to work in this field. Children who receive therapy will be able to reach

their full potential, gain independence, give back through the community and be less burden on society in the future.

Children with autism are no different than any other kids. They want to learn, to they want to play and they want to feel a sense of belonging. The only difference is that they just need a little help with gaining the skills to get there. Families living with autism need to know that they live in an inclusive community and that there is support for them. This is why our community needs this centre.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our story.

Sincerely,

Melanie & Jason Chin