

From: Aram Rajabpour

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:01 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Subject: Fwd: Major Mackenzie/Arnold Crescent Development

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From: Aram Rajabpour

Date: Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 6:41 PM

Subject: Major Mackenzie/Arnold Crescent Development

To: simon.cui@richmondhill.ca

Hello Mayor West and Councillor Cui, I am writing to inquire and share my thoughts about the proposed redevelopment at 190 Major Mackenzie West and 129 Arnold Crescent. The proposal sign has been there for several years so I'm not sure about the current state of the project, but I'd like to share that as a neighbouring resident I am in full support of the proposal.

Our country has been facing an unprecedented housing crisis which means that now it is more crucial than ever to build dense, complete communities with access to amenities like food, recreation and transit.

The reason that I decided to write in was because of an online letter I found addressed to city council from one Cathy Pearson. The letter strongly opposed the development for several reasons that I believe are in fact in the best interest of the city, province and country. The letter highlighted the height and density of the development as the major reason of concern. She said that it is too large and dense for the established community. She said that it goes against the "small town" feel that attracted her to the community in the first place. Mayor and Councillor, I strongly disagree with this criticism and believe that this mindset towards the city's urban planning is one of the primary contributors to the housing crisis and the car dependent nature of Toronto's suburbs.

The housing crisis in Canada and the GTA is truly one of the most terrifying issues concerning young Canadians today. Citizens like Ms. Pearson have had the privilege to be comfortably housed in a "small town feel" city during this time. As a 20 year old student raised in Richmond Hill, the feeling is much different. The current housing situation has made growing older feel like a ticking time bomb, at an age where I should be planning for the future with the most confidence and vigour. I am fearful that I may never be able to independently live in the city that I grew up in.

Development proposals like this one are a sign of hope for young, politically conscious citizens like myself. It's a symbol for the possibility of a more affordable, walkable community. The development at Major Mackenzie and Arnold will not only dramatically

increase the housing supply in this unaffordable community, but it will also revitalize the community experience in an intersection that is challenged by car dependent design.

The current low density housing available in the area in addition to the hostile road layout make it very difficult to walk to Mill Pond, arguably the most important social amenity in the area. This development increases the density in the exact place on Arnold Crescent where Mill Pond can be most reasonably walked from. Keep in mind it shouldn't be, but pedestrians are limited by the road layout.

I mentioned previously that I think it would revitalize the community. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 10 years and went to both elementary and high school in the area. This area is very hostile to pedestrians. Major Mackenzie has very little "place", it is mostly an area to use for community rather than the place to go. When you explore deeper in the community you will find the humble but valuable Mill Pond and then you are faced with the prolific monotony of the low density housing. The development will be a place to be! A place to visit your friends. A place to go for a walk from your suburban house to get a taste of the "city". If it is mixed use, it can be a place to go with family members to get food. It will also bring people from a range of ages outside in contrast to the rowdy high schoolers that inhabit the streets now. It will bring colours to the grey streets! Its modern design will make residents of the area feel that where they live is cared for and payed attention to by the city. But most importantly, it will bring the comfort of a more affordable life to the area.

Mayor and Councillor, I know you are passionate about the community and know better than anyone what is the best step forward. I urge to please not be discouraged from taking these progressive actions by NIMBys. Right now we are in extra-ordinary circumstances which can only be solved with extra-ordinary measures!

Sincerely for the community,

Aram Rajabpour