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March 14, 2025

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

Attn: Mayor West and Members of City Council

Dear Mayor West:

**Re: Response to Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law (Centres & Corridors)  
11580 Leslie Street  
Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc.**

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Goldberg Group acts on behalf of Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc., the 'Owner' of the property described as 'Part of Lot 31, Concession 2 (Formerly Town of Markham)', and municipally known as 11580 Leslie Street (the 'subject property').

The subject property has previously been subject to applications to amend the City of Richmond Hill Zoning By-law, and for approval of a Draft Plan of Subdivision and Draft Plan of Condominium (common element) to permit the redevelopment of the subject property with 19-townhouse dwellings of common element condominium tenure (City Files: D02-18006, D03-18005, and D05-18001). At its meeting of July 6, 2022, City of Richmond Hill Council accepted the recommendations of approve the Zoning By-law Amendment in principle, and to approve the Draft Plan of Subdivision.

A Site Plan Control application was also submitted to the City, and deemed complete as of April 26, 2019 as City File D06-19037.

As of the date of this letter, the amending Zoning By-law is not yet in force and effect as the implementing instrument must still be brought forward to Council for approval. We have been working with Planning Staff to expedite this approval.

On behalf of our Client, we have previously provided comments with respect to draft of the Comprehensive Zoning By-law released in February 2025 (the "**CZBL**"), attached hereto as Appendix 'A' for convenience.

While we are pleased to see that several of our concerns have been addressed, we continue to have concerns with many aspects of the CZBL, not least of which being the speed with which the approval of the document has been advanced.

While the CZBL has been advertised as being for the 'Centres and Corridors', the document contains Administration, General Regulations, and Parking/Loading Standards which appear to be intended to apply City-wide. The preliminary draft of the CZBL was only released for public review prior to the Council Public Meeting on February 25, 2025. Now, a further

updated draft has been released, and is proposed for approval only 22 days following the Public Meeting, with only 7 calendar days to review.

On this basis, we feel it is only prudent for the City to defer approval of the CZBL until greater time has been provided to allow for detailed review of the potential impacts of the Regulations on existing and potential development. In doing so, there would also be more time for meaningful consultation directly with stakeholders.

This could potentially avoid delays in the implementation of the CZBL due to appeals, as well as the need to amend the CZBL in the near future to rectify oversights or unforeseen issues, and to bring the document into consistency with the Official Plan when the policies related to the Centres and Corridors are updated as part of the ongoing Review of the Official Plan.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with City Staff to discuss the above comments and concerns, and request to be notified of any further activity or reporting on this matter.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at ext. 2101.

Yours truly,

**GOLDBERG GROUP**



Adam Layton, MCIP, RPP

cc. Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc.  
Mr. Gus Galanis  
Ms. Deborah Giannetta  
Mr. Salvatore Aiello

**Appendix 'A' – Prior Comments**



ADAM LAYTON, MCIP, RPP  
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(416) 322-6364 EXT. 2101

March 11, 2025

The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill  
Planning and Infrastructure Department  
225 East Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3P4

Attn: Mr. Salvatore Aiello, Manager, Development Zoning

Dear Mr. Aiello:

**Re: Response to Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law (Centres & Corridors)  
11580 Leslie Street  
Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc.**

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Goldberg Group acts on behalf of Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc., the 'Owner' of the property described as 'Part of Lot 31, Concession 2 (Formerly Town of Markham)', and municipally known as 11580 Leslie Street (the 'subject property'). The subject property is located on the west side of Leslie Street, approximately 178 meters north of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The subject property has previously been subject to applications to amend the City of Richmond Hill Zoning By-law, and for approval of a Draft Plan of Subdivision and Draft Plan of Condominium (common element) to permit the redevelopment of the subject property with 19-townhouse dwellings of common element condominium tenure (City Files: D02-18006, D03-18005, and D05-18001). At its meeting of July 6, 2022, City of Richmond Hill Council accepted the recommendations of approve the Zoning By-law Amendment in principle, and to approve the Draft Plan of Subdivision.

A Site Plan Control application (SPA) was also submitted to the City, and deemed complete as of April 26, 2019 as City File D06-19037.

As of the date of this letter, the amending Zoning By-law is not yet in force and effect as the implementing instrument remains to be brought forward to Council for approval. We have been working with Planning Staff to expedite this approval.

We have reviewed the February 2025 draft of the draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law (the "**CZBL**"). While we acknowledge that specific Zone classifications and standards are being enacted for the *Centres and Corridors* at the present time and would not apply to the subject property, it is our understanding that various Sections of the CZBL are intended to apply across the City, including:

- Administration (Section 1);
- General Regulations (Section 3); and
- Parking/Loading Regulations (Section 10).

On this basis, we provide the following comments on behalf of our Client:

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## Schedules

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All Schedules are very difficult to read, with several of the area specific maps including no street names to assist in orienting oneself. We request that a higher quality version of the Schedules be provided. Additionally, we suggest that sub-numbering should be included on all maps for ease of reference.

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## Section 1.12: Transition

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**Subsections 1.12.2, 1.12.3, 1.12.4, and 1.12.5** provide that only minor variance, consent, site plan, or heritage approvals or decisions are recognized back to January 1, 2015.

Further, there appear to be no transition provisions to recognize previous zoning approvals through a Council decision or from an approval administered by the OLT. Without a transition provision or recognition of a previous approval through site specific exemptions the previous zoning would not be recognized. We suggest that relying on the status of a site plan control application is not sufficient to protect for appropriate transition in this regard.

We are also concerned that this framework could many properties into a lawful non-conforming condition, which is best avoided. We suggest that a longer timeframe should be considered to allow past approvals or decisions to be maintained for the purposes of compliance with the CZBL.

Alternatively, such matters may be addressed through Site Specific Exceptions. At present, the draft does not appear to include many Exceptions, showing only two properties.

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## Section 3.1.6: Non-Conforming Uses

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As was noted at the Council Public Meeting of February 25, 2025 by another party, we question why **Regulation 3.1.6(3)** prevents a non-conforming building or structure from being restored or reconstructed to the same specifications should it be damaged or destroyed, particularly when considered in conjunction with the Transition Regulations of Section 1.12 discussed in the previous section of this Letter.

We request that this Provision be modified to permit restoration or reconstruction irrespective of the level of damage or destruction.

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## Section 3.1.8: Common Element Condominiums

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### Section 3.1.14: Frontage on a Public Street

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We suggest that a Provision is required within the CZBL which provides that a condominium 'Lane' is considered a 'Street' for the purposes of access, frontage, and setbacks.

It is noted that the CZBL defines a street as: *a public highway as defined by the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended and shall exclude an unopened road allowance of any street which is shown on a Registered Plan of Subdivision which has been deemed not to be a Registered Plan of Subdivision under Section 50 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, or a predecessor thereof.*

It has been our experience that site-specific applications, such as at the subject property, often require a Provision to this effect within the implementing instrument. Thus, the

imposition of such a standard within the CZBL would allow for the simplification of interpretation through future redevelopment proposals.

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### Section 3.1.10: Municipal Services

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**3.1.10(1)(c)(vii):** *For the purposes of this regulation, municipal services are deemed to be available to the lands, **building** or **structure** within a plan of subdivision registered after the enactment of this By-law, when the **street**, water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and stormwater management facilities required to service such lands, **building** or **structure** satisfy the following requirements: ...two separate vehicular accesses into any plan of subdivision have been provided and kept open for the purposes of ingress and egress, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner.*

It is our experience that many medium and high-density developments often only possess a single vehicular access by way of a driveway or condominium '**Lane**'. The requirement for multiple accesses would thus appear to create a conflict with respect to the determination of when municipal services may be available for lands subject to a technical plan of subdivision. We request that this provision be modified to rectify this.

**3.1.10(1)(d):** *For the purposes of this By-law, municipal services are deemed to be available to the lands, **building** or **structure** that is not within a plan of subdivision referred to in regulation (c), or that is within a plan of subdivision referred to in regulation (c) but that is to be located on a parcel of land that is not the whole of a **lot** within that plan of subdivision, but which is created pursuant to the enactment of a by-law under subsection 50(5) of the Planning Act or pursuant to a consent under section 53 of the Planning Act, when the roads, water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer and stormwater management facilities required to service the lands, **building** or **structure** satisfy the following requirements:...*

We believe there is a typo in the reference to subsection 50(5) of the Planning Act, and suggest the referend should be to subject 50(7). We also note that subsection **3.1.10(1)(d)(i)** and **(ii)** make reference to public highways. Modifications appear to be necessary to reflect access or servicing that is extended through private condominium '**Lanes**'.

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### Section 3.1.11: Interim Development

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We request clarification as to the rationale behind the permitted expansions of existing buildings outlined in subsections **3.1.11(1)(b)** and **(c)**, being 15% of the total gross floor area, and 2-storeys, respectively. We suggest that consideration may be warranted for expansions which exceed these values based on site and area context, and existing uses.

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### Section 3.2: Mechanical Equipment and Penthouses

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We request confirmation that rooftop access for maintenance, or leading to an amenity space, will continue to not constitute a '**storey**'.

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### Section 3.3: Amenity Space

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We suggest that a similar regulation to **3.2(a)** should be included with respect to amenity space located on the rooftop of a building. It is suggested that an indoor amenity space connected to a mechanical penthouse, and which provides access to an outdoor amenity

space on the rooftop shall not be considered a 'storey' and shall be excluded from the calculation of 'building height'.

We also suggest that the minimum number of units requiring amenity space should be increased to 40 dwelling units, with a decreasing amount over 200 units.

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### Section 3.4: Projections

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We provide the following suggestions with respect to the Permitted Encroachments:

- Canopies associated with all building types should be able to extend to a property line abutting a street or private lane;
- The proposed encroachment of 0.9m for steps including landing is not sufficient. We suggest this should be increased to at least 1.5 metres;
- Subsection (b) is overly complex, and does not seem to consider the potential requirements of code, noise, or wind for mid-rise or tall buildings;
- Subsection (e) should include provision for privacy screens between outdoor patios, balconies, and/or terraces;
- We suggest that additional provisions are required for landscape planters, and request that permission be provided to allow the encroachment of these features into any yard to within 0.3m of a property line; and
- We suggest that it be made explicit that a retaining wall is not considered a '**structure**' requiring a permitted encroachment, regardless of the height of same.

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### Section 3.5: Separation

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We suggest that the proposed separation distances are too large, and would not result in efficient use of urban lands. Alternatively, the Ontario Building Code already provides separation requirements for walls with unprotected openings, which would serve as an appropriate separation distance for the podium of mid- or high-rise buildings.

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### Section 3.6: Landscaping

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We note that there is no definition for the term '**landscaping**'. For the purposes of Regulations **3.6(a)** and **(b)**, we request clarification as to whether the requirements refer to '**hard**' or '**soft**' landscaping, which are both defined terms in the definitions. Alternatively, a definition for '**landscaping**' that identifies if both **hard landscaping** and **soft landscaping** are included in the overall calculation of **landscaping**..

**Regulation 3.6(a)(i):** *The following provisions shall apply to a high rise, mid-rise or low rise building on a lot: A minimum of 20% of the lot area must be landscaping, which may be located at grade or on top of a building or structure; ...[Emphasis added]*

We also suggest that **Regulation 3.6(a)(ii)** should be reduced to 1.5m, which is sufficient to provide for a landscape strip.

Further, we suggest that parking or driveway areas treated with permeable pavers or other means to permit stormwater infiltration should be considered as '**hard landscaping**'.

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### Section 3.9.1: Home Occupations

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We question the rationale behind several of the development standards related to Home Occupations outlined in Subsection (1), including the following:

- **Subsection (g):** Why can veterinary services not operate out of a dwelling if it can be demonstrated that appropriate noise control measures have been implemented to avoid impact on adjacent lands?
- **Subsection (i):** We suggest this requirement requires greater clarification as to what is considered a “typical” vehicle employed in residential deliveries? We understand that the intent of this provision is likely to avoid large trucks entering into residential areas, however suggest that this may be out of the control of an operator of a home business.
- **Subsection (j):** We question why a home business could not operation with a small number of employees (i.e. 1 or 2)?
- **Subsection (k):** We question the rationale behind the limit of only 4 students or patrons at one time.

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### Section 3.15: Regulations for Decks and Porches

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With respect to **Subsections (a)(i)**, and **(b)**, we suggest that the requirement that a porch not be closer to a side lot line than the main building or beyond a side main wall may result in the need for relief in the case of side lot lines that are not parallel (i.e. pie shaped lots). This has been our experience with similar standards in other municipalities with similar provisions.

We suggest a side yard setback be provided instead of alignment with the wall of a dwelling to allow flexibility in the design and construction of decks and porches.

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### Section 3.17: Reserve

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We suggest that any reserves should be considered part of the lot for the purposes of calculating setbacks and lot area to allow the efficient use of urban lands.

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### Section 10.0: Parking and Loading Regulations

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We support the inclusion of permission to provide a proportion of required parking spaces as ‘compact’ parking spaces, however request clarification as to whether both Type A and Type B compact spaces are permitted within a single development project (i.e. accounting for 50% of required parking).

We suggest that there may be situations wherein parking structures may be appropriate to be located above grade, beyond those Zones specified in **Regulation 10.7.1(7)**. In this instance, we suggest permission should be provided within the CZBL to avoid the need to seek relief while protecting for an appropriate interface with the public realm.

Provision for shared parking, and off-site parking do not appear to be included in the CZBL and should be considered.



**Regulation 10.7.4** does not appear to contemplate a situation where a barrier free access ramps connects to a municipal sidewalk and is required to immediately start to rise from the public sidewalk. In this regard, how will setbacks be satisfied?

It is our experience that stacked bicycle parking spaces often have lesser width and clearance than those indicated in **Table 10.10.1**. We suggest that the standards be relaxed to avoid potential need for relief. Additionally, we suggest that permission should be provided to allow a wall-mounted bicycle parking space to encroach into the vertical clearance of a vehicular parking space to further expand the provision of bicycle parking opportunities within mid- and high-rise buildings.

For the purposes of interpreting Regulation **10.11.9.1(4)**, please clarify that the driveway approach to a loading space, or the staging area abutting a space do not need to maintain an overhead clearance of 6.5 metres, and that only the loading space itself is required to do so.

**Table 10.11.2** appears to suggest there is a note/special provision for buildings containing more than 400 dwelling units, however there is no associated note.

## Conclusion

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We welcome the opportunity to meet with City Staff to discuss the above comments and concerns, and request to be notified of any further activity or reporting on this matter.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at ext. 2101.

Yours truly,

**GOLDBERG GROUP**



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cc. Leslie View Developments 11580 Inc.