

David West
Mayor of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, ON
L4B 3P4

Dear Mayor West,

Subject: Opposition to the Proposed High-Rise Development for 24 Brookside Road

We, the concerned residents of Brookside Rd., whose names and addresses are mentioned at the bottom of this letter, are writing to you about a high-rise development that has been proposed for 24 Brookside Road. This letter is a representation of the collective concerns of the residents in our community who strongly oppose this development. We believe this proposal threatens the very fabric of our peaceful neighborhood and will have far-reaching negative consequences for the quality of life, safety, and well-being of the residents.

1. Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns

Brookside Road is a small, two-lane road that was never intended to accommodate the level of traffic that a high-rise development would bring. During rush hours, the traffic on Brookside Road already extends beyond the first all-way stop, causing significant delays and frustration for those commuting to work, dropping children off at school, or, in worst cases, responding to emergencies. The addition of a high-rise would exacerbate this situation, turning a small, neighborhood road into a congested thoroughfare. This would not only inconvenience residents but also pose serious safety risks. The increased traffic would likely lead to more accidents and longer response times for emergency services, which could be disastrous in critical situations.

2. Impact on Crime Rates and Neighborhood Safety

Our neighborhood is currently a peaceful and safe community, but the introduction of high-rise buildings could drastically change that. There are already three high-rise buildings proposed for the land fronting Yonge Street, directly behind the proposed development on Brookside Road. The concentration of so many high-rises in one small area could lead to a significant increase in the local population, which has been linked to rising crime rates in similar developments across the GTA. The influx of new residents could strain local law enforcement resources, making it harder to maintain the level of safety and security that our community currently enjoys.

3. Strain on Local Services and Infrastructure

The infrastructure in our area is already under significant strain. The local primary school, Trillium Woods, is at capacity with 750 students and six portable classrooms, indicating that it cannot accommodate any more students. Richmond Hill High School on the other side of Yonge St. has the same situation with even a higher number of portable classrooms. Similarly, the community center is overcrowded, with residents often unable to access programs due to capacity issues. Our only local hospital is also under strain, with emergency room wait times

regularly exceeding five hours. Adding thousands of new residents to this area without a corresponding increase in services and infrastructure would create chaos, overwhelming our already stretched resources and making it difficult for existing residents to access the services they need.

4. Aesthetic Impact and Property Devaluation

Brookside Road is a beautiful, quiet neighborhood with a uniform aesthetic that many residents have invested in maintaining. The proposed high-rise would be an eyesore, towering over our homes like a mountain of cement and steel, completely out of place in our community. This development would not only ruin the visual appeal of our neighborhood but also lead to a significant depreciation in property value. Many of us purchased these properties because they back onto a ravine and have large backyards, creating a serene and valuable living environment. The presence of a high-rise would destroy this sense of tranquility and significantly reduce the value of our investments.

5. Invasion of Privacy

The proposed high-rise would also create serious privacy concerns for the residents whose homes are located to the west of the building. These residents, some of whom are members of the Muslim community, specifically chose these properties because they back onto a ravine, providing them with the privacy they need. The construction of a high-rise would mean that hundreds of people would have direct views into their backyards and homes, forcing them to stay indoors to maintain their privacy. This is not just an inconvenience; it is a violation of their right to privacy and a serious disruption to their way of life.

6. The Right to Shape Our Neighborhood's Future

The residents of this neighborhood deserve to have a say in the future of their community. We are the ones who will be most directly affected by this development, and our voices should be heard. This proposal comes from profit-driven developers who are more concerned with their pocket than the well-being of our community. We believe that the fate of our neighborhood should be determined by those who live here, not by outside interests looking to capitalize on our land.

In conclusion, we urge you, as the Mayor of Richmond Hill, to stop this proposed development and maintain the current zoning of Brookside Road and Yonge Street. This proposal is not only an invasion of our privacy but also a threat to the safety, well-being, and quality of life of the residents of our neighborhood. We are prepared to fight this proposal through all available channels, including taking legal action if necessary, to protect our community.

If there is need for info, please contact below three residents. A list of all other residents rejecting the plan is also mentioned below. We trust that you will consider our concerns and act in the best interest of the residents of Richmond Hill.

Yours sincerely,