



June 2, 2025

Members of Heritage Richmond Hill
Richmond Hill Municipal Offices
225 East Beaver Creek Rd
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P4

RE: Item 6.1(a) of Heritage Richmond Hill Agenda

Dear Chair and Members of Heritage Richmond Hill,

We are writing to you in regard to item 6.1(a) on the agenda for the Heritage Richmond Committee meeting on June 5, 2025 in which City staff are proposing to designate a structure at the Elgin Mills Cemetery, known municipally as 1591 Elgin Road. **We are respectfully requesting you defer consideration of this item until the next scheduled meeting of Heritage Richmond Hill in September for the reasons outlined below.**

As you may know, the Mount Pleasant Group (MPG) history stretches back to the early 19th century, when Toronto was a small Victorian capital, known as the Town of York. Back then, only Anglicans and Roman Catholics could be buried in an “authorised” cemetery. In 1826, our first cemetery, Potter’s Field, was opened with the mission to accommodate all families, regardless of religion. Today, we operate ten cemeteries, nine funeral centres and four cremation centres across the Greater Toronto Area. Elgin Mills Cemetery has proudly served the communities of Richmond Hill, Markham, Aurora and Thornhill since 1979.

Our long and storied past brings with it a deep sense of responsibility. We believe that these responsibilities extend well into the future, and in some cases in perpetuity under Provincial statute.

We are writing to you today because we were only given three weeks’ notice by the City of its intention to designate our property—under the Ontario Heritage Act. The original notice we received by mail referenced the property at 1591 Elgin Road as a whole, making the extent of the proposed designation very unclear. In

Locations:

Beechwood
Cemetery
Vaughan

Duffin Meadows
Cemetery
Pickering

Elgin Mills
Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres
Richmond Hill

Meadowvale
Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres
Brampton

Mount Pleasant
Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres
Toronto

Pine Hills
Cemetery and
Funeral Centre
Scarborough

Prospect
Cemetery
Toronto

The Simple Alternative
Mississauga

The Simple Alternative
Pickering

The Simple Alternative
Toronto

Thornton
Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres
Oshawa

Toronto Necropolis
Cemetery
Toronto

York
Cemetery and
Funeral Centre
North York

response MPG requested additional information on May 21st to better understand the intent of the designation. We now understand that the designation is intended to apply only to a single structure, known as the Peter Heise House, but, if this matter proceeds committee we will have had just one week to review the contents of this report and understand the extent of and rationale for the proposed designation. As a result, we are seeking more time to discuss the matter with City staff and perform our own due diligence to properly understand what this designation will mean for our site and operations. We have already reached out to initiate these discussions.

Note that we have no plans to make any changes to the structure in the deferral period. We earnestly seek the time to better understand the intent of the designation and work closely with staff to this effect. MPG is dedicated to our role as stewards of the property at 1591 Elgin Road and are proud to be a part of the Richmond Hill community, However, we need to balance our obligation to the past with the current and future needs of the diverse communities we serve at the Elgin Mills Cemetery.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Regards,

Jamie Yoon

General Counsel and Director of Regulatory & Government Affairs