

Britto, John

From: Ilia Tomski <ilia.tomski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 8:55 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Britto, John
Subject: File Numbers: OP.13.013 and Z.13.036 File Name: Islamic Shea Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto

C	57
COMMUNICATION	
CW (PH) -	FEB 4/14
ITEM -	2

To Whom it may concern,

I am the resident of the Thornhill Woods community and my property is located on the Bathurst Glen Drive adjacent to the Waldorf School property. I strongly oppose the development as it will have negative impact on the life of my family and every household especially in close proximity to the community center. In order to support this statement I would like to make several points here.

1. I do not belong to any religious confession and thus concentrate on practical aspects of the proposed development. I made conscious decision buying my home in such close proximity to the mentioned community center because I never expected this land to be a subject to such a grand scale redevelopment and I would not like to see "Jaffari Village" turning in to "Jaffari Town". I support the main arguments expressed by many other people living in Thornhill Woods that the proposed plans will severely affect the already stretched traffic and parking in this area and thus will raise my safety concerns.
2. I support the community center as it is in its current status. It is new building and it serves members of Muslim community that like to maintain their religious heritage while living in Canada. So far, functions conducted within the community center only affected the traffic and parking in surrounding streets. Cultural and religious centers should exist as they help people maintaining their heritage, they also help parents in educating kids about the history, language and culture of their country of origin.
4. The demographic diversity of this neighborhood is well balanced and I like the fact that I currently have the variety of different cultures around me. This is what makes current living in this area pleasant and comfortable. I would like to see the demographics of this neighborhood stay as well balanced as it is now.
5. I would have no issues if, instead of housing project, this community center and its members decided to develop this land in a way that would extend their amenities in order to provide more services not only to its members but possibly anybody else that are not the members but happen to live in the area. This community center or, as a matter of fact, any other religion based center serves only the affiliated members and does nothing to improve life in the neighborhood for anybody else who lives here and not a member of a particular confession what ever it might be. It is basically to say that everyone else living around here will get nothing but troubles dealing with over-development.
6. Housing community center members right on the community center land will cause yet another segregation while limiting potential amenities development and crowding the space. This budget housing will also have negative impact on the property values in the nearby streets.

In the end, I think this community center could come forward with much better plan for its members and for the entire neighborhood.

Best regards,

Ilia Tomski

353 Bathurst Glen Drive, Vaughan ON