

Mr. Shafiq Ebrahim, M.B.A., F.I.C.B., A.C.I.B  
129 Kootenay Ridge,  
Maple, Ont. L6A 2V9

January 27<sup>th</sup> 2014

His Worship Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua  
City of Vaughan  
Level 100  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan  
L6A 1T1

Your Worship,

**Re: Application for rezoning and development - Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto  
Lot 14, Concession 2, 9000 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, Ontario**

As a resident of the City of Vaughan and a member of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto (ISIJ), I would like to express my strong support for the zoning application that is before Council for approval.

This project is extremely important to the ISIJ as it is a realization of a long awaited vision of the members of the community most of whom (including myself) initially participated in the purchase of the 28 acre property some twenty years ago and those who have joined later to develop it.

Since our emigration to Canada in the early 1970's it has taken a great deal of courage, sacrifice, perseverance, and absolute faith in the values of justice and equal opportunity typical of all Canadians who wish to better themselves. The spin off benefits of this development are many;

- ✓ direct contribution to the local economy by way of local job creation
- ✓ revenue and income generation for the residents and to the local and provincial government;
- ✓ provides for community based social and other ancillary services (self funded)
- ✓ lessens the burden and frees up the resources for local government agencies and social organisations providing such services

The ISIJ is a community of over 5,000 strong and the majority of its membership resides in the City of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill. We have a long and proud history of community involvement and a very good track record of excellent neighbourliness. We have received recognition and awards even going back to our days at the old Center on 7340 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill. The guiding principles our organization espouses and promotes is consistent with the core Canadian values of equality, fairness, tolerance and peace for all. We are known to be a very progressive and socially responsible community that is a role model for other faith based organizations in the area and abroad.

We are extremely grateful for the cooperation that we have received from the City of Vaughan in the past and we consider ourselves fortunate to be part of the milieu that contributes to its diversity and richness. We have every confidence that Council will look at this application in light of its past decisions that have allowed similar communities as ours to thrive and bring prosperity to the City and do us all proud.

Yours very truly,

