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COMMUNICATION	
CW (PH) -	<u>FEB 4/14</u>
ITEM -	<u>2</u>

Communication C91
Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) – February 4, 2014
Item - 2

The City Clerk's Office has received a petition with respect to the summary wording below. The total number of signatures on the petition is: 302

We, the undersigned, are the residents of Ner Israel Drive, Knightshade Drive, Bathurst Glen Drive, Apple Blossom etc. This are is commonly known as Thornhill Woods and we are writing to inform you that we STRONGLY OPPOSE the amendments and rezoning requests described below (see attached sheet)

A copy of the entire petition document containing a total of 30 pages is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

TO: Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

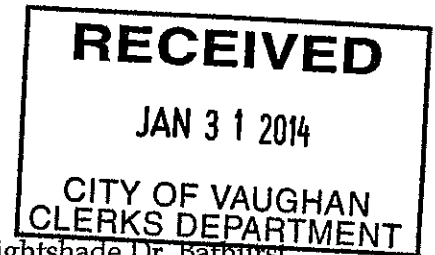
AND TO: City of Vaughan, Development Planning Department

AND TO: Carol Birch, City Planner

RE: ISLAMIC SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI JAMAAT OF TORONTO C/O SHAFIQ PUNJANI

LOT 14, CONCESSION 2 AND PARTS 1, 2 & 3 65R-5630 and PART 1, 65R-31556

File # OP.13.013 and Z.13.036



Dear Commission of Planning and all other relevant parties,

We, the undersigned, are the residents of Ner Israel Drive, Knightshade Dr, Bathurst Glen Dr, Apple Blossom etc. This area is commonly known as Thornhill Woods and we are writing to inform you that we STRONGLY OPPOSE the amendments and rezoning requests described below. We have been informed, via the Notice of a Public Meeting dated the 10th of January, 2014, that the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto (the "Jamaat") has applied to:

- 1) Amend the Official Plan in effect OPA #600 (Carville-Urban Village 2), to re-designate the subject lands from "Low Density Residential" to a site-specific "High Rise Mixed Use designation"; and
- 2) Amend Zoning By-law 1-88 to rezone the subject lands from A Agricultural Zone to RA3 Apartment Residential Zone and OS1 Open Space Conservation Zone, with site-specific zoning exceptions to implement the proposal.

As mentioned above, we STRONGLY OPPOSE Jamaat's requests and would like to ensure that our opposition is adequately recorded and raised at any meeting or discussion regarding Jamaat's proposal to rezone and/or amend the aforementioned lands and any other building approvals/permits that they may apply for.

The following are the reasons we oppose Jamaat's application:

- 1) **Environmental.** The city of Vaughan states in their Official Plan Amendment #600 (OPA #600), Volume 1, Chapter 3, that "The natural environment is among Vaughan's most important and cherished assets... and 3.1.1.1. To provide for the long-term health of Vaughan's natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations." There is minimal agricultural land left in our neighborhood and we want to ensure that it is protected. We rely on this agricultural area for its trees, wildlife, the fresh air it provides, noise reduction, and a buffer from Bathurst street. This eliminates countryside which is contrary to Goal 2 of the official plan. The trees and the woodlands are important to be

preserved because they provide a habitat for local wildlife, including birds, Canadian geese, raccoons, foxes and rabbits that live in the woodlands.

- 2) **Traffic and Noise.** The building of high rises in Thornhill Woods does not match the rest of the neighborhood. The entire neighborhood is designated low rise commercial and residential, and adding high rise mixed use buildings to this neighborhood would increase traffic, create parking problems/congestion on our streets, increase density, increase the noise and ruin the views and the tranquility of our neighborhood. The addition of all these units will result in increased congestion on an already busy arterial street, and will result in the need for unplanned increased public transportation. This is contrary to Goal 5 of the official plan which states that "Reducing car traffic creates cleaner air and more enjoyable streets, and increasing active transportation (walking and cycling) creates a healthier population".
- 3) **Privacy.** Rezoning the subject land from Agricultural to Residential will remove a natural privacy buffer and remove noise and activity barrier for the neighbourhood. Also, as per proposed plan by Jamaat by removing the woods behind Ner Israel Drive and Bathurst Glen Drive, the many homes separated from the Jamaat Centre will further expose the residents to the noise, traffic and activities that occur on Jamaat's property.
- 4) **Infrastructure.** In order to support this new development, the city will need to build new roads, add new services including sewers, storm water management, drains, etc.. This will be expensive and will cause our community increased taxes. The neighbourhood has already had issues with sewage and this will increase the burden on the system.

These are just a few of the issues that we would like to raise and bring to your attention, but we intend to attend any and all public meetings to oppose this proposal.

Thank you in advance for listening to our concerns. Please contact us at thornhillwoodsneighbours@gmail.com or the contact information below with any questions or information you may have.

Rom Koubi

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Thornhill, ON

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