

C32
COMMUNICATION
COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 15, 2022
CW - Report No. 6, Item 10

From: [Adelina Bellisario](#)
To: [Adelina Bellisario](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Letter in support of Member's Resolution
Date: February-09-22 11:59:11 AM
Attachments: [Letter in Support of Member's Resolution.docx](#)

From: Elisa Testa [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2022 5:35 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Tony Carella <Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca>; Marilyn Iafrate <Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca>; Alan Shefman <Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Letter in support of Member's Resolution

Dear Mr. Coles and Honourable Members of Council,

I am sending you my comments on behalf of the Vaughanwood Ratepayers Association in response to the Member's Resolution, dated January 27, 2022. Although I missed the opportunity to speak at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for February 8, 2022, where this matter was raised, please accept my comments in support of this Resolution.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Elisa Testa
[REDACTED] Bruce Street
Woodbridge, Ontario
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: City of Vaughan
Office of the City Clerk
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

clerks@vaughan.ca

Attention: Todd Coles

Re: Resolution Supporting Municipal Final Authority for Development Planning

Date: February 9, 2022

Good morning.

My name is Elisa Testa and I am writing to you on behalf of the Vaughanwood Ratepayers Association. My role in this association is that of secretary and I am also a resident of Vaughan. I am completely in agreement with Councillors Marilyn Ifrate and Alan Shefman in their appeal to dissolve the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal).

Their proposals as stated in their "Resolution Supporting Municipal Final Authority for Development Planning", dated Thursday, January 27, 2022, are concise, well thought out and make sense. It is extremely important that the elected leaders along side with the departments of planning and development and the community members of their respective municipalities be allowed to have the final say in urban planning. The provincial government should absolutely trust municipal council to make decisions about what development is appropriate or perhaps inappropriate as they consider current environmental issues. Who would better know the needs of their own communities?

Much taxpayer money is spent in the development of Official Plans across the province which in turn are approved by provincial legislation, and far too often these plans are overridden by the OLT. "Ontario is the only province in Canada that allows a distinct tribunal to review and overrule local decisions applying provincially approved plans", as quoted from Member's Resolution, January 27, 2022. This is unacceptable and lacks sense! ELECTED officials at the municipal level are there to be of service to the public, not to just simply stand as a token level of government. We need to do away with the posturing and allow our local leaders to do their jobs. Enough of spending taxpayer money in redundant OLT hearings causing delays and challenges in the process of appropriate planning and development of our communities. This extra step in the process is unnecessary and costly.

If requests from land developers are made for Amendments and Zoning By-Law changes which are **not fitting "within the vision of the Vaughan Official Plan"**, then it should be the sole responsibility of Municipal Council of the City of Vaughan to make the decision to deny these requests. I am afraid that the province of Ontario has become the final decision maker. This authoritarian approach will simply not do as we are a democracy. The decision should be made by those who are affected by it, not by those who clearly do not share in the same vision.

Therefore, on behalf of the Vaughanwood Ratepayers Association, I support the Member's Resolution. We all hope for an amicable and cooperative plan moving forward so we can allow for our communities to be effectively governed, planned appropriately, grow and ultimately be enriched to better the lives of our residents.

Sincerely,

Elisa Testa

■ Bruce Street

Woodbridge, Ontario

■

■

■