

C35
Communication
Council – May 22, 2024
CW(PM) – Report No. 18 Item No. 2

From: [Assunta Ferrante](#)
To: [Adelina Bellisario](#)
Cc: [Isabel Leung](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Deputation made to Committee of the Whole - May 7, 2024
Date: May-09-24 4:17:35 PM
Attachments: [Meeting Deputation Block 27, - Karim 2024 05 07.docx](#)

From: Karim Tahir [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Assunta Ferrante <Assunta.Ferrante@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Deputation made to Committee of the Whole - May 7, 2024

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Hello Assunta,
I am grateful for your help in registration for my deputations and reaching out to me for written notes of deputations made by me at Committee of the Whole on May 7, 2024. Please see attached. I have made some editing to clarify the authority of extending Rapid Transit Core to Teston Road.
If you have any question, kindly advise.
Sincerely,
Karim Tahir
per Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at
10610 Jane Street, Maple ON L6A 3A2
416 821 8484

To:

His Worship Mayor and Membrs of the Committee of the Whole;

SUBJECT: BLOCK 27 – Committee of the Whole Meeting, May 7, 2024

My name is Karim Tahir and I am humbled to be a volunteer advisor to Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at (AMJ) Properties Department. As you all know, we have our National Head Office in the City of Vaughan located at 10610 Jane Street. Block 27 is in the immediate vicinity and is bound to have a huge impact on our existing operations.

Before I go the matters related specifically to Block 27, I wish to share with some very personal thoughts. I was happily living with my family in prime Brampton area of Dixie and Williams Parkway, when I was assigned the blessed volunteer duty of following planning matters of block 33 East on behalf of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at. This made me to move to Peace Village (located in this block), City of Vaughan, an emerging world class city, as City of my choice.

At occasions, I got an opportunity to express my vision of City of My Choice to this auspicious council as well. Cities are recognized by their institutions.

1. It has educational institutions like Oxford University, John Hopkins and MIT. Thanks for your efforts to bring York University Medical School.
2. It has parks like Hyde Park and High Park. Thank you for North Maple Prak.
3. It has a world class convention centre like Metro Toronto Convention Centre or at least International Centre. I look forward to see this happen.
4. It has public facilities to accommodate international games like Wimbledon Park and Rogers Centre (Sky Dome). Thanks for Soccer Stadium proposed in North Maple Park.
5. It will attract people from all over the world for tourism (we have Wonderland) and to attend and get spiritual experience like attending Annual Convention (Jalsa Salana) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at.
6. I will not only enjoy my and my family lives in this city but also be buried in this city after passing away.

I feel grateful that under leadership of this council, this great city is on its way to become and get recognition as a world class city.

1. This subdivision will have minimum of 5,759 residential units. This means a population of more than 30,000. This will immensely increase traffic on Jane Street. We respectfully ask the council to take up the matter with York Region to find ways how an efficient traffic flow can be managed. Designating an HOV lane during morning and evening rush hours can be one possibility. To attract use of public transport, it is imperative that Rapid Transit Corridor be extended up to Teston Road. This is currently up to Major Mackenzie Drive. Reference may please be made to schedule 10 (Major Transit Network) of the current Official Plan. Jane Street is a Regional Road, the extension of designation Rapid Transit Corridor up to Teston Road will have to be done through York Region.

I solemnly state that during approval process of Block 33 East, I heard Late Lorna Jackson (may she rest in eternal peace) stand up in this council and state that Vaughan will preserve a corridor along highway 400 up to Wonderland for future transit. Alas, we could not keep up with her vision. Now, at least we can extend the Rapid Transit Corridor up to Teston Road to make life a little bit easier for existing residents of block 33 East and future residents of Block 27.

2. We expect that a large number of our community members will be interested in making this block their home. We request that bicycle lanes and other pedestrian features may be well considered in this block and connect these to the mosque. This will help reduce the vehicular traffic coming to the mosque.
3. There is no place of worship in the proposed block plan. This will greatly impact our mosque. We request that reasonable sized land for places of worship, not only for our community but also other interested communities, be made a part of the plan to be approved by this council.

We shall be pleased to work with land owners' group with support of this auspicious council. In one of the OPA Citizen Working Group meetings, I was advised that a recommendation to allow use of residential lots as places of worship may be an option for OPA team. However, we know very well as

you also understand that re-zoning of residential lots as places of worship is not a practical matter.

4. We also note that the community hub and public squares are not located in central locations, as a result most of the residents will not be able to walk to these facilities. This is an essential feature of today's environment friendly urban design. We fail to understand how this consideration was overlooked by the planning team. Relocating these facilities may please be given a consideration before final approval of the block plan.
5. There is a dire need of affordable housing in our city. AMJ, Humanity First and other organizations like Human Endeavour are working hard to sponsor refugees and help in their settlement. I can give an example of Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace - a non-profit housing provider sponsored by AMJ. This has not only been recognized a leader in sustainability, energy efficiency and Management Best Practices, but has also been a first step for immigrant families to get established in their new home country. A conservative estimate is that more than 100 families from this project have moved to their own homes in Vaughan.

We seek your help that some of the areas reserved for midrise residential and mixed-use development be inclusionary zoned specifically for affordable housing in the plan to be approved. We shall be pleased to work with Land Owner's Group how we can co-operate in making this happen and managed.

Edited and Submitted:

Karim Tahir

Ahamdiyya Muslim Jama`at

May 9, 2024