

C62.

Communication

CW(PM) – December 3, 2024

Item No. 4

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Assunta Ferrante](mailto:Assunta.Ferrante)
Subject: FW: [External] Trucking yard
Date: Sunday, December 1, 2024 6:29:12 PM

From: Francesco Varano [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 2:06 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; mayor@vaughan.ca; Marilyn lafrate <Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca>; Joshua Cipolletta <Joshua.Cipolletta@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Trucking yard

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Dear City of Vaughan Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the rezoning application for 11339 Albion Vaughan Road (Official Plan Amendment File OP.24.008 and Zoning By-law Amendment File Z.24.020), item 4.4 on the December 3, 2024 agenda of the Committee of the Whole (Public Meeting).

Considering the Town of Caledon has declared a Road Safety Emergency on October 8, 2024 - it is critical that neighbouring municipalities respect this and stop approving truck intensive development until resident safety can be guaranteed.

Road safety is a major concern in the area where this property is. This property's proposed entrance/exit for the additional 111 trucks is right on a bend in the road which impacts visibility and movement of traffic. The vast majority of truck traffic will be exiting the property and travelling south on Albion Vaughan Road and turning left at the Highway 50 intersection which is quite close by. Traffic during rush hour is extremely heavy and there is always a long line of traffic waiting in the left turn lane to go south on Highway 50. Trucks from this driveway would be turning directly into this long line of traffic and creating more congestion and increasing the danger on this road. This is not acceptable and not what this community needs. We need less trucks on our roads, not more.

This property has been operating as an illegal truck yard on agricultural land. Alterations to the property have already been done illegally. If Vaughan approves this rezoning, this sends the message to all others with agricultural land in the area that they don't need to follow the zoning laws. They can simply do whatever they want with their land, make large sums of money by using the land illegally & only submit a rezoning application after receiving a notice or cease-and-desist, if they want to. This approach encourages complete disregard of the laws and cannot be tolerated.

Rezoning applications should only be considered on lands that are currently in compliance with their intended uses - only then can the proper studies be done, submitted and reviewed and the application can be properly evaluated and a decision made.

The rezoning application paperwork mentions that there is a need for more truck container storage in the area. That is absolutely false and baseless. There is absolutely no need for any further truck or truck container storage in this area and for certain it's not needed approximately 500 meters away from a residential area in Caledon. The impact to residential neighbours is completely absent in this rezoning application. Just because the residents are on the Caledon side, does not mean they don't exist. The impact to them needs to be considered.

The town's report on this rezoning indicates in Attachment 4, several additional zoning amendments that would be needed, even within the Employment Lands zoning that is being requested (allowing a further public truck fueling facility, truck sales, 60% of the land be used for truck storage instead of the usual 30%, height of storage be 4 m instead of the usual 3m, allow truck storage in the front yard when this isn't usually permitted, and allowing truck storage between the front of the property and the existing building when this isn't usually permitted). For a property that was already being used illegally, the City should not be considering additional amendments to employment lands zoning. This further encourages illegal land use on other properties.

The Existing Official Plan in the Z.24.020 application indicates the land is Agriculture in Schedule 13, Vaughan Official Plan 2010, Volume 1, and being located in Natural Areas and Countryside in Schedule 1 - Urban Structure of VOP 2010, Volume 1. I don't understand how a truck yard can fit into this Existing Official Plan.

Lastly, I want to reiterate that City of Vaughan should only be considering rezoning applications on lands that are currently in compliance with their intended use. This community does not need further truck storage facilities or more trucks on our roads. The safety of our communities must take precedence! We will be paying close attention to how City of Vaughan votes on this rezoning application - it will show how the City of Vaughan will consider (or not consider) their neighbours and whether City of Vaughan will take meaningful action to discourage illegal land use, or whether they will encourage it. I hope we can count on City of Vaughan to uphold their zoning laws.

Sincerely,
Francesco Varano