Dear Messrs. Coles, Bevilacqua and Shefman,

I am writing to you as a resident of our Thornhill community. As you are leaders in our community, I am addressing my concerns at the pace by which you are planning to make a decision related to the redevelopment of the north west corner of Steeles and Yonge St.

I agree that the current space is poorly represented and needs redevelopment. The answer is not to stop all development but to take the time to think about creating an ‘entrance to Vaughan’ that is commensurate with the message that it convey about our community. The location is unique one with the vista it provides to the surrounding area. It is a crossroads – so think of it in that manner.

Set a goal that is ambitious and one that will have an impact. Let’s not end up with another example of ‘condo city’ that seems to have infected so much of the development around the GTA. Do not allow it to be crammed with people and cars and congestion. Have some restrictions on the use of the space.
Allow it to become a ‘people place’ where people want to congregate and stroll and meet and engage. Allow social life to mix with commercial engagement. Let more creativity be expressed. Make it a destination for the community and the broader Toronto region. There are lots of ideas but encourage a design that has more risk and permits more diversity.

The plan as put forth and the pace with which you are moving doesn’t allow for broader input. You need much more engagement. You need to pause and think about the unique value of the landmark location.

Please regard this as a decision that will impact a number of generations so take the time to think through the long term goals we want for Vaughan.

Sincerely,

Harry Zarek

Arnold Av
Thornhill