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**From:** Hatem Abu El-Neel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Bevilacqua, Maurizio <Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>; Carella, Tony <Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca>; Iafrate, Marilyn <Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca>; Jackson, Linda <Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca>; Rosati, Gino <Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca>; Ferri, Mario <Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca>; Racco, Sandra <Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca>; Shefman, Alan <Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna <Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca>  
**Cc:** Clerks@vaughan.ca; Development Planning CSR Mailbox <DevelopmentPlanning.CSR@vaughan.ca>  
**Subject:** [External] The City of Vaughan leads in caring for the Mental Health of the residents - Why not?

Good day Hon. Mayor Bevilacqua and esteemed council members,

I would like to thank you, **Mayor Bevilacqua, Councillors Rosati, Jackson, Racco, Iafrate, Carella** and all other Councillors who shared the same views in what I see as positives that came out during the special COW meeting on July 8, 2020 which discussed issues related to Board Of Trade golf course development application.

The council members acknowledged the importance of caring for the mental health of the residents, started a dialogue with the applicant's representative to confirm the applicant's promise to donate around 200 acres of green space to the city of Vaughan (free of charge), showed personal interest in being part of a task force to look after the residents' concerns and tried to dig for the root cause of the residents' anger and frustration in relation to the application at hand.

The proposal to transform 200 acres of open green space from private lands to public parks is going to undeniably improve the health (mental and physical) of the residents who live nearby.

If you agree that the health of the current residents who back onto the BOT golf course is of similar importance as well, then please continue to read my email further;

The science of environmental psychology has developed a lot in the past decade and has resulted in lots of researches to guide urban planners on how to make cities healthier and more livable. In Canada, we have experts who have researches in the same field and are already helping municipalities and cities both at the domestic level as well as internationally.

These experts can help shape any proposed development/s in a way that makes it healthier for the current/future residents while still keeping them financially viable for the developer/s. They can also help the city communicate both good and bad news to the residents in a more palatable way and can certainly give some valuable guidance to help resolve conflicts which emerge between the concerned parties. This is needed today more than ever, while the city is

discussing the biggest infill project in the history of Vaughan, which, unfortunately, is being discussed under the unusual circumstances created by COVID-19 pandemic.

If you agree to this, then it might make sense to consider hiring an environmental psychology consultant to review the depositions from the residents, the remarks from the planning staff on mental health and your own responses to the residents during the July 8th COW meeting. The consultant can then advise on what was done well and what can be done in a better way.

As mentioned in the report from staff, the proposed development has a precedence from developments on privately owned open spaces in the past and for sure it is a major concern for the residents who currently live next to the BOT Golf course, in addition it is of the same importance for residents who live next to other similar open green spaces such as **Maple Downs Golf & Country Club (Ward 1), The Eagles Nest Golf Club (Ward 4) and The Thornhill Club (Ward 5) and others** who might go through the same in the future and who would want to see the city of Vaughan handling proposed developments on such open green spaces with sufficient care.

I have contacts of consultants which I can forward to you and I'd volunteer to be part of a task force if you think this would be useful.

Thanking you for reading my email and looking forward for your support on this matter.

Best regards,

Hatem ABOU EL NILE

■ Kilmuir Gate, Vaughan, ON ■