

Deputation **October 29, 2020**

Zoning By-Law Review

Public Hearing

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Good evening everyone. My name is Elisa Testa. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening in this Public Hearing. I have lived in Woodbridge for 30 years. I have seen Vaughan grow and expand very rapidly in recent years from a small town to a very vibrant metropolis rich in cultural diversity. I must say that I welcome all that Vaughan has to offer and I am very proud that I chose to come to live in the city above Toronto back in 1990 along side my husband and have raised my family here. We are indeed lucky to live here.

I completely understand why the zoning by-laws needed to be reviewed to keep up with the rapid growth of our city. What an incredible task for the team who is to be commended for the thorough job in which this review was handled and written. I attempted to go through the document to the best of my ability but found it a bit overwhelming as it is very extensive. However, I do believe that, again, it is thorough, covering all important aspects and points that it needs to cover. I also believe that the team has gone to great lengths to consider public opinion and feedback through the community open houses that were held throughout its process.

Having said this, I implore you to stick to what has been outlined and stipulated in the by-laws as it is reaffirming the Vaughan Official Plan of 2010 as the plan looks at growth and development respectively and appropriately. For example, I have a special interest in Schedule B-4 which outlines the TRCA regulated areas and is subject to section 4.22 of the By-law which stipulates that site alterations and development are to be steered away from lands that are considered to be environmentally compromised such as wetlands or hazardous lands under the threat of natural occurrences such as flooding and/or erosion. Alterations to shorelines and watercourses or building on a slope in a valley wall or in a flood plain must never be allowed. Also, development should be steered

away from lands considered by the TRCA as having a natural heritage and should be preserved as further stipulated by the by-laws. This too, I ask you to really stick to these by-laws as our green space is being depleted. We absolutely need our green space to be conserved. It is crucial to our health and well being and of course, it enhances the beauty of our city. We do not want the “urban jungle” look, so please, stick to the by-laws on which you so painstakingly worked. Amendments to these by-laws should never be considered.

Thank you for your attention.