

Letter to the City of Vaughan – May 8, 2021

Hello,

My recently deceased mother and I have been residents of Weston Downs for the past 20 years. My mother was a member of the Rate Payers Association and Volunteer Recognition Society. Weston Downs is important to me because it is the place where I was raised, intend to raise my family, volunteer for the less fortunate and practice my religion.

Our subdivision, currently holding a 97% residential rate, with two neighbourhood commercial plazas, is occupied by long term Vaughan residents. These residents value the tranquility and privacy associated with Vaughan subdivisions, which lies in stark contrast to large urban settings.

Weston Downs has thrived and continues to increase in value because of the long-term residents' dedication to keeping our community clean, safe and nuisance free. The renters occupying the units in this proposal would not only encroach on the privacy of Weston Downs residents but also substantially increase the level of noise, pollution, and hazards. It is unreasonable to assume that these renters or property owners will show the same level of commitment and dedication to community safety and involvement, given their short-term investment in a temporary residence.

The Builder's disregard for the residents of Weston Downs is apparent. This large structure would cast over a bulk of the houses, entirely eliminating the enjoyment from backyard use and outdoor recreational activities. I understand the attractiveness of increasing tax revenue by allowing such a proposal to proceed, but we ask the City to place a greater value on the social lives of its residents who have endured considerable strain during the pandemic and dedicated their time, effort and money to keeping Weston Downs a subdivision of peace, privacy and safety.

Aside from the social and structural issues of this proposal, traffic concerns are also evident. Having already recognized the extreme traffic congestion in our subdivision, in 2015, City Council adopted the Peak Period Turning Restriction for Weston Downs Community Resolution. This resolution, although helpful, did not relieve the chronic traffic infiltration and congestion that continues to intensify. For most residents, it takes 20 minutes to get home from either Langstaff Road or the Weston and Rutherford intersection during rush hour. This proposal would not only add to this problem, but substantially increase its potency and create a new problem in its own by further congesting Velmar Drive.

Weston Down residents already sacrifice by accommodating a majority of Woodbridge rush hour commuters who drive through the subdivision and create both excessive traffic congestion and noise. It is neither reasonable nor acceptable to force us to further sacrifice by having our homes substantially decrease in value, both monetarily and socially. We have invested our livelihoods, family stability and retirement plans in a subdivision which promised to maintain its residential identity. This proposal will cripple our investment, force us to relocate and shatter our hopes of remaining in a subdivision in which we have built our lives and planned our futures around.

Please reconsider and keep the social cost of this proposal in mind when basing your decision.

Sincerely,

Anthony Turrin, on behalf of my neighbours and subdivision as a whole