

Letter to the City of Vaughan

Hello,

My family has lived and contributed to the Weston Downs community for 25 years. My recently deceased father and mother were members of the Ratepayer's Association and have raised me and my sister in our house our entire lives. It would be a major accomplishment to provide for my family the same community, encompassing all its safe amenities that have been protected and offered to residents for so many years. Why, amidst a pandemic reaching the tail-end, should we then have to sacrifice further? It is unlikely that short term renters can positively contribute or would even consider the rest of our community in the same way as long time residents and its utterly obvious all of the negative implications the builder's have provided.

There will be a shadow cast upon our small, residential community, physically by the presence of the building, and spiritually knowing that our government at every level has deemed that this improper rezoning is appropriate. Who benefits? Governments who can increase tax revenue. Developers who will construct the building. Speculative property owners who will rent out the units without a second thought. One could argue the individuals securing affordable housing will, but at what cost? Where and when has the meaningful consultation with the residents of Weston Downs been valued. In 2019, at Vaughan City Hall, it was the most impactful political venue I had ever attended for influencing my perspective. There was an auditorium of hundred of residents who's wishes are now seeming as though they'll be ignored. What other issue causes people to make the effort other than protecting the security, safety and wellbeing of themselves, their families and their most prized possession, their home.

I, as an Environmental Studies graduate with a major in Urban and Regional Environments understand the Ontario Growth Plan of 2017 and the purpose to intensify neighbourhoods with pre-existing services. This is not lost on me, people deserve a chance to rent dwellings in a solidified and functional subsection of society. But the GTA provides ample opportunity and more, albeit the cost is expensive, but this is the reason why our homes have value. To allow the attractive draw of a traditional residential community to be relinquished is both a shame and unsubstantiated. There is an element of NIMBY-ism that pervades throughout the tone of this letter, as it has for those living in the privileged communities of The Annex or Forest Hill, but this is not Toronto, this is Vaughan, and our decisions to choose this City as our home meant something back then which is apparent when municipalities want to sell our dream for a couple of extra dollars.

Would it be nice as a young person to own a condo nearby to my families residence, yes it would. But this opportunity does not outweigh the problems it will cause for my fellow residents. Traffic congestion and public safety are the first and only issues that really need to be mentioned. It is not in the best interest of the residents and I am positively sure there is ample area outside of our subdivision to build a structure with rentable units if the possibility is explored further. Please do not allow greed for money to supersede our earned desire for space and tranquility. Please allow Weston Downs to flourish another 35 years without the knee-jerk reaction to urban sprawl impeding on our residents combined drive and conviction

for space, safety, and the sanctity of our shared neighbourhood. I hope this letter has shed some light onto one young man's opinion with the consideration of urban planning themes, and contemporary strategies with which we organize handling people, dwellings, and affordable housing crises throughout the GTA.

Sincerely,

Ryan Neiman, on behalf on my entire subdivision as a whole