

July 6th, 2020

COMMUNICATION – C84
ITEM 1
Special Committee of the Whole
July 8, 2020

Dear Mayor and members of the Committee:

The last time this matter was personally before us was at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 3rd, 2020.

You will recall the community packed Council Chambers and overflow areas, and spoke loud and clear against this proposed development.

Then the Covid-19 Pandemic hit and everything changed. The one thing that did not change is our commitment and resolve to ensure that the residents and taxpayers of this City be included in any decision-making process which impacts their livelihood and standard of living. Please, let's not use the Pandemic to circumvent our rights and responsibilities.

As our elected officials, it is your duty and responsibility to do what is in the best interests of the people you represent, and to ensure that their health, well-being and quality of life are first and foremost.

A project of this magnitude requires thoughtful, meaningful, insight and consideration. Hurried decisions allow ample room for error in planning and forecasts, which could necessitate future mitigation measures, such as widening of existing roads to accommodate unexpected traffic volumes.

We strongly continue to urge you to implement an Interim Control By-Law to allow sufficient time to conduct the necessary open and transparent studies, with input in who performs the studies, along with independent reviews by experts on the studies conducted. The by-law should include a provision to prohibit any dealings on the subject lands during the study period.

A potential Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) would undermine the democratic process, resulting in poorly planned communities, especially with a development of this significance and size. This is not an average, typical project and requires all the due diligence that is warranted. The community has invested a lot of time and money in this cause and deserves to be heard.

The decisions we make today, and the actions we take, will not only affect the immediate community but will no doubt spill over onto other surrounding communities as well.

Let's take the time and get it right!

Thank you.

Mrs. Franca Stirpe
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[REDACTED]

