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COMMUNICATION
COUNCIL – June 22, 2021
CW - Report No. 29, Item 23

From: [Bellisario, Adelina](#)
To: [Bellisario, Adelina](#)
Subject: FW: approve sustainable developments so that risk of tragedies like those on Athabasca can be minimized
Date: June-02-21 11:34:00 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-horizontal.png](#)

From: HP [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:52 PM
To: Council@vaughan.ca
Cc: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: [External] approve sustainable developments so that risk of tragedies like those on Athabasca can be minimized

The tragedy on Athabasca Drive was preventable but not by publicly funded police presence, speed cameras and certainly not by speed bumps or other traffic calming initiatives.

Speeding and other harmful moving violations are the same dollar amount for drivers from all walks of life. Working class motorists are kept in line as they simply can't afford any traffic ticket and don't have the leisure time to drive around Vaughan with no economic purpose or utility while well to do individuals with high end performance cars the tickets are simply a minor nuisance of using their cars at its maximum speed to pass their time. So unless the latter group magically and suddenly develop a social conscience speeding and stunt driving will always occur in car dependent culture of Vaughan and much of York Region.

When looking at the development of MacKenzie Ridge from an aerial view, it is clear that out of control vehicles will easily and often hop the curb on even numbered properties on Athabasca Drive. Why was such a dangerous design approved? This was horrible development, and the city needs to start approving instead non-car dependent multi-family dwellings along major regional roads in ALL of Vaughan. I'm sick and tired of the NIMBYs who complain ad nauseam that "existing character" or property values of their neighbourhoods would be destroyed but fail to understand their homes were part of developments that ate away virtually any future infill development opportunities along much of regional roads in their area. Apartment dwellers don't create traffic. They lead simple local lives and/or use transit during peak business rush hours. Residents that use exclusively private motor vehicles just to grab a loaf of bread or head to Starbucks because they are bored in their McMansions are the real traffic issue.

According to Canada Post Thornhill L4J has almost 8,000 apartments while Maple L6A only has about 2,300 mostly on or near Jane Street. This needs to change to give the streets and sidewalks back to vulnerable residents and make Vaughan affordable for working class and modest end of Ontario's middle class.

MacKenzie Ridge has no public schools, no corner plazas and no common public spaces within walking distance. The steep rolling Hills of Dufferin Street as you enter the area prime un-conscientious motorists to drive recklessly for no reason except their selfish "need for speed". I bicycle from Thornhill Woods to MacKenzie Ridge monthly during spring/summer for the past four years and I've never seen pedestrians or other cyclists on this route north of Major MacKenzie.

To drastically reduce such a high risk to residents on their driveways or front yards, barriers either heavy stone or metal barrier must be erected by homeowners. But perhaps this has not been done since homeowners likely would feel they are unsightly or expect the public to pay for them.

Thank you for reading,

Hiten N. Patel, Community Advocate

Call or Text [REDACTED]
<https://HitenPatel.ca>