
From: Camille A. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] Official plan Amendment File OP.11.012 Zoning bylaw Amendment file Z. 11.043

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed zoning Amendment. I strongly believe that the area selected is not well suited for high density housing, and I urge you to consider the impact on the residents in the immediate area.

It is unlikely the developer actually lives in the area, so please let me explain why I believe why this area of Vaughan absolutely cannot support high density housing:

Reason 1 & 2 traffic volume & traffic flow. Impact to East/West Rutherford, North/South Weston and surrounding residential streets.

Rutherford accesses the 400 hwy. East, and west traffic use Rutherford to access the 400 hwy so we already have volume from other communities who rely on this route. Weekday mornings the traffic congestion spills from Rutherford into the nearby neighborhoods as vehicles try to make their way onto the Hwy. This route simply cannot handle any additional volume. I used to commute home from Rutherford Go Station to Rutherford and Weston. A 5.1 km commute has taken me up to 45 minutes, on a clear day. Read that again - 5 kms in 45 minutes. That is not acceptable to me, that should not be acceptable to anyone. And not to mention that there are what feels like unsynchronized lights every 300 meters (or less). Let's face it, we don't have the most courteous drivers here in Vaughan either. I have seen many incidents of "road rage". Traffic only exacerbates these issues. Not to mention, as a pedestrian I have had way too many close encounters with aggressive motorists, even while pushing an infant in a stroller, by motorists who don't respect the right of way. I believe there was an unfortunate pedestrian fatality in the area in the last 5 years. Traffic gravely depletes the quality of life in the community immediately surrounding this area.

I have a fear of not being able to make it to the hospital in time because of traffic. I have recently seen emergency vehicles struggle to make it through the intersection at Weston and Rutherford. I say a little prayer when I see emergency vehicles pass. My prayers might not help, but you can.

Reason 3: school capacity issues. Do not force these schools to increase the class size based on this high density housing proposal. Large class numbers hurt kids, don't let these developers infringe on our children's education. Most of which will need extra help and attention due to covid interrupting the last 2 years of their schooling. Please consider this, our children are important.

Reason 4: Access to parks and green spaces. One of the reasons we enjoy this neighborhood is the access to parks and greenspaces. Vaughan is fortunate to have some wonderful green spaces and trails. The Matthew Park Splash pad is always full during the summer. With increased residences you take away the community's enjoyment of these amenities due to overcrowding. Furthermore, we have already experienced scarcity in access to recreational programs at Vellore Community Centre. We have been wait-listed for several programs with the current community size.

Reason 5: Litter and loitering. The impact of high density housing has a wider reach than the immediate area. Loitering and littering is already a problem at the plaza at Weston and Rutherford. The Tim Hortons, and McDonald's draw crowds of people of varying ages who loiter, park their cars, blast music, smoke marijuana, and trash the parking lot. It doesn't feel safe walking through the plaza at night. More people, more problem.

Reason 6: This proposal was already opposed by the community. This is not the first time that this has been tabled. As a community, we didn't want it then and certainly do not want it now. help us protect and preserve our community. Go back to the drawing board.

I implore you to halt this zoning Amendment. There have been new developments, just north of Rutherford on Weston, and another proposed project is in the works on the plot beside the historical Vaughan Hall site, we cannot support such a large influx of families in this neighbourhood.

We don't have adequate infrastructure in this neighborhood to support high density housing. This is not the neighborhood for this type of use. I believe that high density housing should be closer to the Vaughan city center, and not in the surrounding suburban areas. Please protect our suburban spaces, this is why we moved here.

Please heed my voice, and consider my reasons valid. I have spoken to several other families who share my sentiment, but who are unsure how to come forward to express their opposition. I am not against progress or change and I do believe Vaughan can be a successful modern urban and commercial city that will thrive, but Vaughan does need to revisit its master plan. I do not agree with the piecemeal approach to urban planning. Further studies on traffic flow and community impact need to be explored.

I would like to be heard and make a change in my community. Furthermore, I want to be proud of the city I live in and the community I participate in, I call for the amendment to be halted indefinitely for this use. Instead consider commercial business, similar to the existing commercial in the area. I could get on board with that.

Sincerely,
Camille Azzolin

