

**From:** DIANE BERWICK

**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 9:37 AM

**To:** Clerks Public

**Subject:** Council Meeting Feb. 25, 2025 - Item 6.4

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**To:** Members of the City of Markham Council

Item 6.4 re Item 7.2.1 - Recommendation Report  
National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i of Canada  
Development Application - 7200 and 7290 Leslie Street (Ward 1)

I am a resident of Ward 1 of the City of Markham. I oppose the development of the proposed new Baha'i National Centre. It is my understanding that at least nine community groups have spoken out and voiced opposition to this proposal. Tell me when ... when do the views of the residents of Markham's matter, including mine? Please listen to us -- the residents you represent.

In reading the Recommendation Report of February 11, 2025, I am very concerned.

**The Proposed Development:**

110 parking spaces ... really enough??

In spite of plans outlined for additional parking nearby, you can't tell me that local residential streets will not be used for overflow parking at certain times for members, visitors and tourists.

**Owner's Proposal of a revised Greenway Boundary.**

Why do our governments, at all levels, try to ... or keep rewriting, re-designating greenbelt/greenway boundaries? These actions come across as if these very important environmental/other issues don't matter to our governments in spite of what they profess. It translates to me as a "Let's just move the boundaries to suit" attitude. Walk the talk.

**Changes to Leslie Street:**

Cost? Cost breakdown? Who would pay for this? Us the taxpayers ... the Baha'i organization?

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Owner will be required to submit detailed restoration plans, etc.

Why would approval ever be considered prior to submission of final plans by owner?

**Traffic congestion** - Steeles Avenue and Leslie Street are both extremely congested without this development. Traffic will increase tremendously, especially with the huge density increase as a result of the subway station/area redevelopment at Steeles & Yonge and at Steeles & the 404 and I'm sure, other developments to come. With increases in traffic congestion comes other issues such as increases in air pollution and noise.

**Infrastructure** - Sewers, electrical grid

Serious issues when added to other high density development for this area.

**Environmental damage and Destruction of Wildlife Haven:**

Loss of endangered wildlife species and loss of homes of diverse wildlife.

Residents complain about encroachment of raccoons, coyotes, etc., in urban areas. The habitat

of wildlife is constantly being destroyed as would be here. They have nowhere else to go.

Loss of many mature trees - negative impact on air quality, local tree canopy, noise, and homes of

wildlife. We won't see saplings mature in our lifetime, perhaps even in our children's lifetime.

Loss of greenway/green spaces which are constantly being chipped away in our area.

**Violation of Zoning and City By-laws.**

**Noise/Light/Dust/Air Pollution** - During a very long construction period and forever once finished.

Approval of this development would set a dangerous precedent.

Sincerely,

Diane Berwick  
Ward 1 Resident  
City of Markham