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**Subject:**

FW: COA electronic meeting objection

From: Dan O Kopniak

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 6:30 PM

To: Clerks Public Subject: COA electronic meeting objection

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Dear Council Members, Regarding proposal to enact a bylaw to allow COA meetings to be held electronically rather than in person has many disadvantages. Notice by mail of COA meetings and details should still be required rather than general postings in local newspapers to ensure delivery of affected parties. Some do not have access to email or web sites and this should be relied upon. It would be very difficult to object to a proposal for many people under a MS Team Meeting, Skype, Zoom Meeting or similar setup that are not familiar with how best to use that technology including displaying photographs and other information they wish to share to form a basis for their argument. This electronic method definitely favours the applicants who will control the technology. My recommendation is for in-person meetings using social distancing, wearing of face coverings and not attending if one has symptoms of COVID-19, once the government allows such activities to resume. Pushing through COA approvals, most of which are unnecessary, in a virtual approval process is not the prudent way to proceed, and not in the best interest of the residents of Markham that wish the current building restriction by-laws, which the City has taken great measures to determine, to be enforced. Thank you for taking my request into consideration.

Best,

Daniel O'Kopniak

Proud Markham resident and taxpayer since 2000.