

From: [REDACTED]

Date: November 7, 2022 at 11:05:58 PM EST

Subject: Agenda item 8.1.1 - City of Markham - Age Friendly Design Guidelines

To: Mayor Frank Scarpitti – Markham; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath – Markham; Regional Councillor, Joe Li – Markham; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones – Markham; Councillor, Keith Irish – Markham; Councillor, Alan Ho – Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine – Markham; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham ; Councillor, Andrew Keyes – Markham; Councillor, Amanda Collucci – Markham; Councillor, Khalid Usman – Markham; Councillor, Isa Lee – Markham;

Cc: Kitteringham, Kimberley; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath – Markham; TisMe...

<[REDACTED]>,D Gabay <[REDACTED]>,Trish Anderson

<[REDACTED]>,Sal Amenta <[REDACTED]>,Kirk McDonald

<[REDACTED]>,Anthony Ko <[REDACTED]>

Mayor, Regional and City Councillors, and Clerk:

Our Committee for an Age-Friendly Markham is pleased to see that City Council is continuing to move forward with initiatives to improve the quality of life for seniors and all residents of Markham. There has clearly been much work done by staff and consultants between the initiation of the project to create Age Friendly Design Guidelines in August, 2021 and today. We are also aware that staff has indicated that many of the proposed guidelines are already being adopted by specific developers through the permit application process. This ‘gentle persuasion’ approach by staff is encouraging on the one hand, and is accomplishing some of the objectives outlined in the proposed Guidelines, especially with developers that are open to critical input and listening to the market.

On the other hand, our Committee is dismayed by several issues, including:

1. On more than one occasion, our Committee has discussed the need to create *regulations* in Markham, rather than guidelines which ultimately can be rejected by individual members of the development community. We strongly suggest that Council adopt a stronger, more forceful approach.
2. We are dismayed by the elapsed time from the initial recommendations from our Committee to Council in March, 2019, to this date. Forty-four months is an extremely long time to get from an initial idea to the current state. Unfortunately, in the recommendation or motion presented to Council, specifically item #3 in that motion, we see a further delay awaiting cost analysis of adopting these guidelines. That analysis has already been performed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in more than one study, with the conclusion that there is minimal if any cost increase from adopting these guidelines, especially if adopted at the planning stage. We question the need for City of Markham staff to engage external consultants to review work already performed by a credible, Canadian authority. We also strongly question the need for that additional consulting cost to Markham ratepayers, and the inevitable delay arising from this extra, unnecessary work.
3. Finally – passing this motion in the last council meeting of the 2018 – 2022 Council, seems somewhat disingenuous. We are concerned with ensuring the continuing support

of the new Council that will be taking over shortly for this item. Additionally, we are concerned this item will slip beneath the radar. We ask that a specific time for follow-up be made clear in the motion, with a very short time for the next stage deliverable, if in fact that is necessary. In our view, the material is ready for implementation as soon as possible, and any further delay does not seem warranted.

Thank you for your considered review of these comments regarding Agenda item 8.1.1 - City of Markham - Age Friendly Design Guidelines

Regards, Andy

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[CITY OF MARKHAM - AGE-FRIENDLY DESIGN GUIDELINES](#)