

COMMUNICATION FROM JIM PARASKEVOPOULOS: PLAN 23 131550 - ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION - 2 OVIDA BLVD

From: J Paras <jparas@rogers.com>

Date: September 7, 2023 at 7:10:04 PM EDT

Subject: Suncor gas leak 4 Ovida urgent

To: Deputy Mayor & Regional Councillor, Michael Chan - Markham <MichaelChan@markham.ca>

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Dear Deputy Mayor Chan

I am resending this email for your reference as I was made aware it did not get circulated before the Sept 5th meeting.

Next meeting has now been scheduled for September 27 and my stance remains the same (to have it postponed) as I feel this major issue is being rushed and many questions need to be answered along with test reports and environmental risk analysis and if they're any health risks to me and my family who live just a couple feet away from the proposed 40 foot Remediation system. I am not convinced it is safe to have this container containing contaminated with vapour and soil so close to me especially since my daughters window are right beside it.

I know application fees may be lost but it's hard to put a price on my families safety.

Honourable Members of the Committee of Adjustment,

With deep respect and utmost urgency, I am writing to formally request a rescheduling of our meeting to a date no sooner than 90 days from the scheduled date, to allow for a comprehensive review. The well-being and safety of our neighborhood's residents, particularly my family, are at stake, and we require more time to fully understand and navigate the implications of this matter.

Reasons for Request:

- **Lack of information required to make an informed decision:** The application is in respect to the building of a remediation facility, yet we have not been provided with complete information related to the environmental issue at hand. It is impossible to make an informed decision as to what is necessary without complete disclosure as to what has occurred, contamination levels reports, what the intended process entails (in terms of timelines, anticipated outcomes, and risk factors), alternative options that have or should have been considered, and what the current and potential risks to residents are.
- **Application premature:** The application is in respect to the building of a remediation facility that requires approval from the Ministry of the Environment. As of August 27, 2023, the Ministry has indicated that an application for the MPE system is not yet submitted. As such, it is premature to consider the application until such time as the facility itself has received approval.
- **Significance of Decision:** This is an exceptional circumstance and not a standard variance that normally comes before the Committee. The decision with respect to building an industrial remediation facility in a residential neighbourhood has profound and irreversible implications on the neighbourhood's character, and the safety and welfare of the community. It is not a decision that should be taken lightly and one that should not be considered without full and candid disclosure being made beforehand.
- **An adjournment is not prejudicial to the applicant:** The applicant has been aware of the situation for which it wishes to build a remediation facility since at least 2014. It has chosen not to take action until now. I have lived beside the applicant's property since 2015 and I only found out that there had been an incident requiring remediation earlier this month, upon seeing the Committee of Adjustment sign on the property. Given the applicant has waited almost a decade to initiate the process, a 90 day adjournment will not prejudice its rights in any manner. On the other hand, forcing residents to advance an informed position without full disclosure in a short-time frame is undoubtedly prejudicial.

As such, I respectfully reiterate my request that the application be adjourned for no less than 90 days to allow the community and the Committee sufficient time to obtain all the information that is necessary to make an informed decision.

In the alternative, if the Committee rejects the request for adjournment, I respectfully object to the application on the basis that the proposal will have the following detrimental impact on my property, surrounding properties, and the community at large:

- **Air Emissions:** Risks from untreated contaminants jeopardize the respiratory health of my family and the broader community.
- **Noise:** The incessant noise from the MPE system stands to disrupt the tranquility of our lives and the enjoyment of our property (including but not limited to our outdoor living spaces).
- **Ground Vibrations:** Vibrations, especially during crucial operational phases, are a potential threat to the structural soundness of our homes.
- **Odors:** Potential emissions of potent and possibly harmful odours are of significant concern given our proximity.
- **Health Risks:** Direct exposure to contaminants, due to any operational lapses, is a tangible health threat, especially to my young daughters and other neighbourhood children.
- **Land Disturbance & Aesthetics:** The MPE system's installation and operation threaten the visual charm and value of our property.
- **Weed Growth:** The potential surge of invasive weeds could impact our property's aesthetics and raise maintenance challenges.
- **Wildlife Encroachment:** Altered environmental conditions may draw unwelcome wildlife, leading to numerous associated concerns.

In conclusion, while I recognize and support the importance of the overarching goal of remediation, it is nonetheless imperative that a fully-informed decision be made that considers the needs of all residents and allows this process to proceed in a manner that is least disruptive and most effective to the neighbourhood residents. We were not party to the actions that cause the need for remediation in the first place, nor did we even know about it until earlier this month. I trust that the Committee will give this matter the deep consideration that it warrants and not unnecessarily rush to judgment until such time as full and complete disclosure has been provided.

Sincerely,
Jim Paraskevopoulos
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