

From: SHE LOVE [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:46 AM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Suggestions of the March 5th 2024 Hybrid Development Services Committee meeting

As a longtime resident of Box Grove, I strongly oppose the government's plan to establish affordable housing here. This would destroy our community and disrupt our way of life. There are some aspects we consider:

Community Stability: I am worried that introducing affordable housing might impact the overall stability of the community. You may fear that new residents brought in by affordable housing may not care about the welfare of the community as much as you and other long-time residents do, potentially leading to a deterioration of the community environment.

Quality of Life: Our community might be concerned that affordable housing could increase the population density in the community, leading to issues such as traffic congestion and noise pollution. This could affect the quality of life and comfort for you and other residents.

Property Values: I am worried that the establishment of affordable housing might affect the value of your property. You may believe that affordable housing could lower the overall property values in the community, thus harming your investment and financial interests.

Community Image: The community concerned that affordable housing could negatively impact the image of the community, leading to unfavorable perceptions from others. This could affect how my family interact with others and my social circle.

As a resident of YORK REGION, I support the government's initiative to build affordable housing to address the struggles of low-income individuals in affording high rents. However, I believe it's not appropriate to build affordable housing in BOX GROVE. Affordable housing would be more suitable in communities with older residents. Here are the reasons:

- As someone who has previously been involved in managing affordable housing, I understand that the crime rate in neighborhoods near such housing is often much higher than the local average. BOX GROVE is a community with a relatively young population, including many school-aged children. Therefore, constructing affordable housing here would pose a significant potential threat to the safety of children. School-aged children are particularly vulnerable to the influence of crime. Building affordable housing in communities with older residents could help avoid such risks.
- BOX GROVE, being a relatively young community, is home to many new immigrants, some of whom may not speak English proficiently. If affordable housing were built here, the potential high crime rate it might bring would severely impact the residents. Many residents may be unable to report dangerous situations promptly due to language barriers. Building affordable housing in communities with older residents could mitigate this issue.
- BOX GROVE has experienced rapid development in recent years, leading to congested roads. 14th Street often experiences severe traffic jams from Highway 9 to Markham Road. Constructing affordable housing would further strain the already overburdened roads, significantly impacting the normal lives of existing residents.

In summary, while supporting the government's efforts to provide affordable housing, I believe it's crucial to consider the demographics and infrastructure of different neighborhoods. Building affordable housing in communities with older residents could help mitigate safety risks to children and residents with language barriers while also alleviating potential strain on local infrastructure.

If the government plans to allocate the use of existing land, building a new community center on this site would be more beneficial than constructing affordable housing. BOX GROVE has a significant population, yet lacks a convenient community center for residents to engage in activities and leisure. I believe establishing a new community center holds greater significance than building affordable housing.

A community center would serve as a focal point for social gatherings, recreational activities, educational programs, and local events. It could provide spaces for various groups within the community to come together, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening social bonds. Additionally, it could offer facilities for sports, fitness, arts and culture, as well as meeting rooms for community organizations and workshops.

Investing in a community center would enhance the overall well-being and quality of life for BOX GROVE residents by providing them with opportunities for social interaction, personal development, and recreational pursuits. It would contribute to building a vibrant and cohesive community, enriching the lives of residents in ways that affordable housing alone might not achieve. Therefore, prioritizing the establishment of a new community center would be a more beneficial use of the land.

From: Yang Meng [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:44 AM

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