

**From:** Germanmills South Ratepayer Association  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Mayor & Councillors <MayorAndCouncillors@markham.ca>; Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>  
**Subject:** Bahai proposed development

Dear Honourable Mayor Scarpitti, Regional Councillors Li and Jones, Councillor Irish and all other Councillors,

Hope you had a great summer.

On behalf of the German Mills South Ratepayers Association, I am taking the liberty of forwarding to you below a recent article published in the Markham Economist and Sun on the Bahai development application. Here is a link to the article:

[https://www.yorkregion.com/news/residents-oppose-massive-baha-i-temple-complex-coming-to-markham-s-german-mills-settlers-park/article\\_47f4bbd6-e42e-5a85-b6be-f8d602bd4d4b.html](https://www.yorkregion.com/news/residents-oppose-massive-baha-i-temple-complex-coming-to-markham-s-german-mills-settlers-park/article_47f4bbd6-e42e-5a85-b6be-f8d602bd4d4b.html)

While it is very likely that your staff would have already brought this article to your attention, we wanted to highlight that the community's opposition to the application is not in any way 'personal' to target any specific community.

The opposition to the application is grounded in upholding the integrity of the City's Official Plan, by-laws and policies, and also in the concern for the ecology and the avoidance of unnecessary environmental degradation.

The development application does not request simply minor variances from existing or proposed by-laws. Rather, the application seeks to overturn or disregard fundamental principles enshrined in the Official Plan, the by-laws and longstanding City policies. The proposed 120,000 square feet of administrative buildings, lodging facilities, banquet facilities and temple space, an 82' high temple, parking lots, including underground parking, welcome centres, etc. do not come close to fitting within the zoning and by-law framework.

In addition, the impact on the local environment would be extremely detrimental. Preservation of flora and fauna and the green belt ecology is a creed common for all. Per the article, the overwhelming strong view of the larger community in this area and beyond, is to protect mature trees and not destroy the ecology of our green belt which has been so painstakingly created.

We have been, thus far, encouraged by your commitment to do the right thing for Markham and by Councillor Irish's public statement that the interests of the residents come first.

We would urge you to vote against this application when it is presented to Council.

With warm regards and best for the last quarter of 2024,

Harcharan (Harry)Singh  
President,  
German Mills South Ratepayers Association