

From: Einat Netaneli

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:15 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Development on Natural Ravine at 7200 and 7290 Leslie Street

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Dear Members of the Markham City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the Bahá'í National Centre at 7200 and 7290 Leslie Street, which includes the construction of a Bahá'í Temple, new administrative offices, a conference centre, lodging facilities, and a courtyard.

markhamward1.ca

This development threatens the preservation of one of the few remaining natural ravines in our community, an area that is home to diverse wildlife and serves as a vital green space for residents.

The encroachment on this natural habitat contradicts the principles outlined in Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan, which emphasizes the importance of conserving our natural environments.

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Allowing such development sets a concerning precedent for future projects that may further erode our city's green spaces.

I urge the Council to provide full transparency regarding any consultations or agreements made with the Bahá'í community concerning this project. Specifically, I request disclosure of any financial contributions or incentives offered to expedite this development. Additionally, I question the absence of input from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in this matter, given their mandate to protect our natural heritage. Their expertise and oversight are crucial in assessing the environmental impact of such developments.

While I respect the Bahá'í community's desire for a place of worship and assembly, I believe that preserving our natural landscapes should take precedence. I propose that alternative sites be considered for this development, ones that do not compromise our precious natural habitats. The existing ravine offers a serene environment where individuals can connect with nature, and it should remain undisturbed for all to enjoy.

Thank you for considering me and my fellow citizens' concerns. I want to trust that the Council will act in the best interest of our community and the environment in these days of upcoming elections.

Sincerely,-

Einat Netaneli | עינת נתנאלי

Markham.