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Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Deputation for item #8.1 Application for National Assembly of Baha'i of Canada

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I'm writing in response to the recommendation report regarding a new Baha'i National Centre and Temple at 7200 and 7290 Leslie street.

The temple is a huge structure, totally out of character in a protected greenway area and nearby residential neighbourhood.

The Leslie Street north of Steeles would not be able to handle the construction traffic. It is not an arterial road. Who's going to pay for the upkeep and repair of the roads during years of heavy construction? As Baha'i claims to be a religious organization and doesn't contribute to taxes, are Markham residents going to foot the bill?

The proposed overflow parking area constantly got flooded during heavy rainfall. What's the justification for allowing it to be a parking area? Baha'i also requires a hotel to be built for their followers. Why is a hotel built in a residential area, not to mention next to an ecologically sensitive meadow? Do other religions build lodging for their followers in the GTA?

How's the surrounding area going to be upkeep with influx of visitors? Transportation, parking, waste, , noise and destruction of an ecologically sensitive area is just a few problems that immediately comes to mind. If the City has already come up with solutions, then let residents know about them. If not, the project needs to be under further review.

For such an enormous project, every aspect of the potential issues should be considered. The City has not listened to the residents' concerns. There was never a community consultation as indicated in the report. We want to see how the residents' concerns are addressed. We want to see City staff's justification for the recommendations.

During one of the meeting, when asked if Baha'i is willing to do a land swap, Baha'i turned down the offer. The reason being they want the Temple to be built asap. Baha'i 's main reason of building in a green zone and upsetting all the neighbours is because they don't want to wait anymore? That's is NOT a good enough reason.

For a project of this size, and with its enormous impact, we should step back and consider all the pros and cons. I sincerely hope the Mayor and councillors take time to consider all aspects of the project. Especially for the local residents. We should be able to hold our heads high and tell future generations that we did our best to protect the German Mills Meadows.