

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Thank you

On Mar 1, 2016, at 5:16 PM, Ricky Tsui wrote:

Councillor Heath/Burke/Armstrong/Rea,

I won't be able to make it tonight, but could one of you please help me read the below passage (bolded) at Council Chamber right before the voting for the traffic signal? Your help is greatly appreciated and I thank you once again for listening to our concerns this morning.

Ricky Tsui, CPA, CA, CFE

Hi everyone,

I would like to thank all the Councillors for taking the time to listen to our concerns and deputations this morning. Even though I was not able to make it I was listening in online and appreciated the time that was given to this for meaningful discussion.

As a resident of Box Grove, I have come to begrudgingly accept that the traffic signal at the intersection of 14th Avenue and 9th Line is a foregone conclusion ever since Staff had suggested it more than a year ago. However, I will go on record to express my disapproval and disagreement of this, and that it will introduce more problems regarding safety and speeding than what it attempts to solve. As residents, we have already expressed our concerns multiple times with respect to the geography of this area, the exposed gas lines, the back-up due to a lack of left turn lanes which will clog up traffic with a traffic signal and other issues. Nothing seems to register with City Staff despite their lack of a solution to address these concerns, and I have frankly become disenchanted with this entire process.

As a resident of greater Markham, I am even more disappointed. It seems that issues that we face here in Box Grove is only a microcosm of how our City functions throughout all of Markham. As a Markham taxpayer, I am appalled at the lack of accountability shown by our City Staff who are civil servants paid for by my tax dollars. I have other friends who live in other parts of Markham and they all feel the same way. There is simply a lack of accountability and due care exercised to ensure the accuracy and in depth analysis that is to be expected before a solution is presented. From my experience alone in the past 3 years, I can count off the top of my head how many times I feel City Staff had demonstrated either a lack of knowledge or care in their work. I hope most of you can remember the presentation that City Staff had presented to Council for Plan B Homes, where I was able to quickly and decisively pick out the inconsistencies in their very own report relating to the type of homes that are allowed to be built on the Plan B lands based on the current zoning. I also remember us debating with City Staff about the suitability of a traffic signal last year, and City staff had erroneously told Council that the distance from 14th/9th to the Box Grove Bypass was more than 1 km.

Is this what we should come to expect from City Staff? This complete lack of care and in depth analysis before reaching a tenable solution? Am I and other residents wrong in expecting better from our Civil Servants whose salaries are paid for by our hardworking tax dollars? Is it wrong to hold City Staff accountable to their promise of providing us with

a budget of expenses for the Box Grove Impact Fund by March 2015 which is now long overdue? For this last issue I have followed up via email quite a few times and we have received nothing.

Decisions should not be made simply based on the path of least resistance, work required by City Staff, or dollars, but it seems like that is precisely what it comes down to every single time.

I hope all of Council understands that this issue of a traffic signal at 9th and 14th Avenue is only a symptom of concerns that not only Box Grove residents have with the professionalism and duty of care of City Staff, but all of Markham. Unless something severely changes at the top that holds our Staff accountable for the accuracy, completeness, and in depth analysis of their work I don't see this culture and attitude that is pervasive throughout City Hall to change anytime soon. And for that, I am severely disappointed as a Markham Taxpayer.