

**From:** Angela Grella

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 10:39 PM

**To:** Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>; Rob Grossi <rgrossi@georgina.ca>; Margaret Quirk <mquirk@georgina.ca>; mayor@townofws.ca; Frank Scarpitti <mayorscarpitti@markham.ca>; Don Hamilton <dhamilton@markham.ca>; Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Markham <jheath@markham.ca>; Joe Li <joeli@markham.ca>; Jim Jones <jjones@markham.ca>; Maurizio Bevilacqua <Maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>; Linda Jackson <linda.jackson@vaughan.ca>; Mario Ferri <mario.ferri@vaughan.ca>; Gino Rosati <gino.rosati@vaughan.ca>; John Taylor <jtaylor@newmarket.ca>; Tom Vegh <tvegh@newmarket.ca>; Emmerson, Wayne <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>; Virginia Hackson <vhackson@eastgwillimbury.ca>; Steve Pellegrini <spellegrini@king.ca>; Tom Mrakas <tmrakas@aurora.ca>; officemayor@richmondhill.ca; Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>

**Subject:** York Region Special Committee of the Whole Agenda Item F2.1 (May 19, 2022)

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Dear Regional Council,

My name is Angela Grella and I am a property owner in Markham and Vaughan.

I urge you to delay the approval of York Region's Official Plan until after the October municipal election. The reasons are stated below.

1. York Region's Affordability Strategy has not been updated, yet Ontario faces a housing affordability crisis.
2. York Region's Climate Change Action Plan has not been updated, yet we are in a climate emergency with Ontario having abandoned its promises to reduce GHG emissions
3. The endorsement of such an extensive urban boundary expansion is premature given the financial risks, the environmental impacts and food security concerns. Our children will be paying higher property taxes.
4. It is financially irresponsible for York Region Council to commit to growth for the next 30 years when future MCR processes will allow for decisions to be made by future Councils when more information is available on infrastructure needs and population growth.
5. York Region supports the Upper York Servicing Solution, a currently illegal wastewater plant, to service expensive and destructive greenfield development in East Gwillimbury
6. Mayors and citizens are in the midst of battling unwanted Enhanced Minister's Zoning Orders (EMZOs) for highly high densities forced on the Region from the province of Ontario: this legislation density is not reflected in the current draft Official Plan
7. Citizens have not been presented with cost/benefit information or tax implications regarding the above components of the Official Plan or growth scenarios.
8. The growth scenario was chosen without public support, complete information or transparency: the intensification rate and extent of sprawl must be reconsidered, taking into account residents' feedback.
9. The Official Plan must conform to provincial policies that could change after the June 2, 2022, provincial election:
10. Finally, other regions and counties are not meeting the July 1, 2022, Municipal Comprehensive Review Conformity deadline. (Durham Region, Simcoe County, possibly Orillia)

I request that York Region delay approval of its Official Plan until after October 2022, after there is more democratic debate, and after transparent and meaningful data is presented to York Region Council and citizens.

I want the Official Plan to create the variety of housing we need (the missing middle), lower taxes and invest in existing communities; Protect the Greenbelt, farmland, and water quality, including Lake Simcoe; support building liveable and affordable communities where residents can live, work and play. It's time to stop spending hours commuting, we need walkable communities. Let's be innovative and start building 15-minute neighbourhoods within the existing urban boundary.

Sincerely,

Angela Grella