

Ms. Emberson / City Clerks

We the residents of East Burlington appreciate the opportunity to express ourselves.

I was one of the presenters at the meeting on April 9th at the City Hall. Rather than repeating what had already been said and what I had prepared, I was pondering, in reflecting on the speakers comments, the large disconnect between the sale to the residents by the developer in 2017 and the presentation of the development. What I attempted to express is the following:

"The people of Burlington vote on regular bases to put in place good, well intentioned individuals who will not only represent their constituents but be an integral part of shaping this City. We do not have the influences which our City staff and elected officials have on many governance matters, including the development of lands such as the Lakeside Plaza property. We came from Oakville, where we were known as the richest City in Canada for many years, but never became known as the most livable. Burlington has been voted for a number of years to be the most livable City in Canada. We have found this to be very true, thanks to great staff and elected officials, who understand what makes a City great.

What was discussed and told to the residents, in a public meeting at Robert Bateman High School is not represented in the extremely dense residential / commercial facility, which greatly exceeds the densification / traffic issues / building height / parking requirement guidelines. There have been amendments to the proposed design and yet there has been no reflection of the Cities guidelines and the needs and character of East Burlington and the charm of Lakeshore Road.

We the residents have placed our trust in the City management team to be the "gate keepers" to our wonderful City. We expect the team of elected and employed members to take care of the City and close the "gates" to those who do not align with our collective values and official City plan."

I cannot begin to understand all of the complexities at play in managing the planning process and inviting great developers and design opportunities to our great City. I can only imagine the balancing act, at the same time good decisions are generally not the easy ones, but they are the right ones. As often as possible make the best / right decisions.

I understand that there are many pressures including pushing the developer to align with a reasonable design and risking being forced to plead the case at LPAT. You also cannot afford to lose if this contest happens. Among other things, you need a very large support at the resident's level, to back the City position and we trust that your position aligns with that of the residents and the official plan.

The residents are getting together to organize the community to demand reasonable development. It would be great if this effort were a partnership to ensure the best possible outcome.

Looking Forward

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