

Good morning, Madame Mayor, councillors, city officials, and neighbours,

My name is Kirk Robinson and I am delegating on behalf of Millcroft Against Development, commonly known as M.A.D. M.A.D. is a community group that formed to oppose the rezoning of the Millcroft golf course from open space to residential. With numbers growing daily, M.A.D. currently has nearly 4,000 members. Despite the practical barriers that COVID has created in organizing such a strong opposition, our neighbours showed up. We're people who were born and raised in Burlington, as well as people who chose to make Burlington our home. We're people who know why Burlington was named Canada's best city to live and who are passionate about keeping it that way. We're people who recognize that green space is essential to our mental health, especially in these times of fear and isolation. We're people who care about our city and our neighbours. We're people who want to give a voice to our children and grandchildren who will bear the consequences of the decisions we make today.

We ask our councillors to approve the proposed Official Plan, and in particular, section 8.4.2.2(2)d of the proposed Plan, which prevents developers from submitting applications to rezone major parks and open space. We believe this section is critical to Burlington's future. Whether it's downtown, north, south, east, or west, Burlington has grown astronomically but **responsibly** in the last few decades. Burlington has surpassed the province's population targets without compromising what makes our city stand above the rest. The City has chosen smart development in areas that are intended to support it, such as those close to major public transit hubs. We ask our councillors to continue with the tradition of smart development and to approve an Official Plan that preserves our limited green space. We ask our councillors to approve an Official Plan that promotes residential development in areas that the city, the region, and the province has deemed fit for such development, and that prevents developers from submitting applications that completely disregard the goals and vision of the city, the region, and the province in this regard.

On top of asking our councillors to approve the proposed Official Plan, we ask that no one be exempt from its reach. We are aware that Millcroft Greens - the developer in the process of submitting an application to introduce residential development to the existing Millcroft golf course - has requested that their application be exempt from the provision preventing the submission of applications to rezone open space. Millcroft Greens is acknowledging that they are aware of the city's vision for Burlington's future, that they are aware of the region's vision for Burlington's future, and that they are aware of the province's vision for Burlington's future, but that frankly, they don't care. With a class action lawsuit recently filed in Oakville for the excessive loss of greenspace to residential development, we see that the time to preserve our green space is now. We see how permanent and heavy these decisions are. Once you develop green space, you can never get it back. The damage is irreparable. To the developer, this is about money. To M.A.D. and its supporters, this is about our homes, our neighbours, our children, our grandchildren, and our pride for our city. This is about doing the right thing now to generate hope for the future.

In closing, M.A.D. supports the proposed Official Plan as conceived by the city and the region and ask that no third parties submit appeals that their economic ventures should supersede the policies put in place by the parties fairly elected to make those determinations.

Kirk Robinson
Millcroft Against Development