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TOWN OF AJAX

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The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Sent by E-Mail

March 30, 2022

Re: Endorse No Urban Expansion for Community Area in Durham

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held on March 28, 2022:

WHEREAS the Region of Durham is in the process of undertaking Envision Durham, the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) of the Regional Official Plan to accommodate a population of 1.3 million and 460,000 jobs by 2051;

AND WHEREAS the Region is completing its MCR by looking at how and where our cities and towns may grow, how to use and protect our land and resources, what housing types and job opportunities are needed for our residents, and how people and goods will move across our region and beyond;

AND WHEREAS the Region's Land Needs Scenarios Assessment Summary Report (released March 11) indicates that population growth can be accommodated in Durham with an intensification rate of 55% and a Greenfield area density of 64 people and jobs per hectare with 0 hectares of urbanization;

AND WHEREAS scenarios that promote low density residential do not comply to the Growth Plan, 2020, and continue land consumptive sprawl that eliminates agricultural land, increases flooding, and impacts the natural environment;

AND WHEREAS by increasing the intensification target and shifting the unit mix towards medium- and high-density dwellings, the total Community Area land needed to accommodate residential uses decreases from 5,400 hectares to a "no-urban-expansion" scenario to accommodate population growth;

AND WHEREAS a "no-urban-expansion" scenario to accommodate population growth provides the necessary time to evaluate our evolving growth needs, as the official plan process calls for review and possible amendments every five years;

AND WHEREAS by voting to grow within the existing urban footprint for residential uses, elected leaders end the threat to arable farmland, support local food production, combat

climate change, protect natural heritage systems (rivers, wetlands, and agricultural lands), introduce new and balanced housing options, emphasize higher densities, and create more walkable, transit-friendly communities;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax declared a climate emergency to acknowledge the impacts of climate change and reaffirm our commitment to mitigate and adapt to those impacts wherever possible, as have numerous others including but not limited to the Region of Durham, Town of Whitby, Municipality of Clarington, Brock Township, City of Toronto, City of Hamilton, and City of London;

AND WHEREAS the Town continues to support responsible expansion and intensification of Employment Areas along major highways and abutting existing Employment Areas, to support job growth in Durham Region;

AND WHEREAS municipalities including the City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Town of Oakville, and Halton Region have endorsed “no-urban-expansion” scenarios as part of the MCR processes in their respective communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Ajax Council supports no urban expansion onto farmland for residential purposes in Durham Region’s MCR process (up to 2051);
2. Ajax Council strongly recommends that the Carruthers Creek Headwaters be protected and not considered for urban expansion under Durham Region’s MCR due to the ecological sensitivity of the area and significant flood and erosion risks posed to Ajax;
3. Ajax Council directs Planning & Development Services staff to prepare a report on the Region’s Land Needs Scenarios Assessment Summary Report for the April 4, 2022 Community Affairs and Planning Committee with their professional recommendation;
4. Ajax Council directs Corporate Communications staff to promote the opportunity for the public to complete the Region’s Alternative Land Needs Scenarios Survey by April 14, 2022; and
5. This motion be circulated to the Hon. Mark Holland, MP for Ajax, Ajax candidates running in the upcoming provincial election, all Durham area municipalities, Environmental Action Now Ajax-Pickering, Environmental Defence, Stop Sprawl Durham, Premier Doug Ford, Minister Steve Clark, Durham Environmental Advisory Committee, Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change Committee, Durham Food Policy Council, and Climate Justice Durham for their consideration and support.

If you require further information please contact me at 905-619-2529 ext. 3342 or alexander.harras@ajax.ca.

Sincerely,



Alexander Harras
Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: Mayor S. Collier
Regional Councillor J. Dies
Hon. Mark Holland, MP for Ajax
Patrice Barnes, Ontario Conservative Party Candidate
Amber Bowen, Ontario Liberal Party Candidate
Frank Lopez, The None of the Above Party Candidate
All Durham Region municipalities
Environmental Action Now Ajax-Pickering
Environmental Defence
Stop Sprawl Durham
Minister Steve Clark
Durham Environmental Advisory Committee
Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change Committee
Durham Food Policy Council
Climate Justice Durham