

Deputation Re: Item GM9.20 – Proposed Purchase of Property at 11 St. Anne’s Road Known as the Hayden Park School

By: Timothy J. Bartkiw, LL.B., Ph.D.,
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The Community is Not in Favour:

- Performed our own survey/poll – 156 Signatures of Citizens opposed, 85% of “Directly Affected Homes” – Based on a single Clear Question
- critique of Strategic Counsel Poll – See attached

Why NOT in Favour?:

- City/TDSB poll itself reveals most common answer – police stations don’t belong right in the middle of quiet residential neighbourhoods – for citizens it is a profound issue of neighbourhood planning and protection of a way of life

History of Process:

- since beginning - thin veil of “consultation”
- poll – not only rigged in terms of numbers (4.4 to 1 ratio in favour of those 1/2 km or more away) but also in terms of 2 types of survey bias (question wording and context effects) – See attached presentation on the Poll
- Community meetings and votes at TDSB - vague assurances of community input and protections – arguably big influence on TDSB vote
- Most recently – promised by Real Estate and Facilities Services that would be given “disclosure” of history of search process – asked for this 6 months ago through our Councilor’s office and were told would receive it - community residents were given this information Monday afternoon, had to sign up for deputations within 48 hours

No Commitments to Community Concerns:

- Vague promises of involvement in “Design Process” – pre-supposes ability to address community concerns, when community fundamentally opposed
- CCO Recommendations to GMC:
 - Mere references to *technocratic feasibility*
 - NO assessment of impact on neighbourhood, such as:
 - use of building by various organizations;
 - use of playground by families, organizations;
 - recognition of fact that this neighbourhood has been officially sited as being under-serviced in terms of parks and green spaces
 - NO commitments to community standards or desires, such as:
 - Effective Input of IMMEDIATE neighbourhood residents in design process
 - guarantee of underground parking
 - preservation/creation of playground surface space on site
 - preservation of mature trees

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- entrances/exits – limited to Dovercourt, not on quiet St. Annes Rd. or Coolmine Rd.

At TDSB Meeting – We came close to convincing their Committee not to recommend selling (3 to 2 vote) because of the impact on the neighbourhood. In the end, some Trustees felt was not their mandate to protect neighbourhood when acting as vendor of land to the City. So, WHO **IS** looking after the neighbourhood? Now it is City's job!!!

OUR Position:

Do not buy this Property. Find a more suitable Site, not immediately surrounded on 4 sides by residential housing. This is NOT merely moving station across the street – proposed new location has a much bigger impact on neighbourhood, many more homes affected, etc.

In the Alternative:

- 1) Make a full Neighbourhood Impact assessment a pre-condition to request for Council approval. Bring the issue back to GMC to review the assessment, and/or provide this analysis to City Council as part of the Report on this matter.
- 2) Guarantee the addressing of community concerns. Attach as conditions to approval of purchase, with Chief Corporate Officer obliged to carry out prior to and during any development of the site.