



April 26, 2010

Chair and Members of Scarborough Community Council

Dear Councillor Del Grande:

Re: Appeal of Committee of Adjustment Decision- 2157 – 2183 Lawrence Ave. East

On April 14, 2010 the Committee of Adjustment had before it an application “to permit the existing holistic centre (Orient Spa) to remain in the commercial plaza”. The Committee of Adjustment approved the variance.

I sent a letter to the Committee of Adjustment requesting that the above item be deferred to provide an opportunity for me to meet with the applicant/owner to discuss what services she is planning to provide. My staff had left a number of phone messages at the number provided to us for the agent who was dealing with the file and no response was received. On the day of the hearing, the owner of the “holistic centre” called wanting to meet immediately before the meeting started. My staff advised the owner that there was no way that we could meet immediately because of previously scheduled meetings and that she should agree to deferring the matter until the next meeting to provide an opportunity for us to meet. The owner made the decision to move forward with the matter at the April 14th meeting.

The reason for my request that the City of Toronto appeal the Committee of Adjustment decision is that there is another “holistic centre” in this strip mall just above the proposed use on the second floor. My ward has a proliferation of “holistic centres” in strip malls along the arterial roads which abut residential neighbourhoods. A large number of the “holistic centres” are not what they claim to be, by providing services which are illegal. Locating the proposed “holistic centre” in this strip mall is not in the best interest of the community and the retail neighbours of the proposed use.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Solicitor to appeal the Committee of Adjustment decision since it is not in the best interest of the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 37

