

July 13, 2020

Lynn Boyle, City Clerk's Office
Scarborough Civic Centre

RE: RESIDENCE ITEM SC16.4 – 3300 TO 3316 ELLESMERE ROAD

Further to my email message of July 7, 2020 and your email acknowledgement on the same day, I am submitting the following information pertaining to the above subject matter.

As mentioned in my email message to you, a meeting was held on July 9, 2020 with the 4 local Community Presidents (Highland Creek, Centennial, West Rouge, Guildwood) along with Councillors Jennifer McKelvie and Paul Ainslie and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam. Included on the agenda, were concerns as expressed by Highland Creek residents, pertaining to the zoning amendment application by the UTSC.

As President of the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) I can assure you that it is our intention and commitment to be good neighbors with the UTSC. We jointly participated with Miller Lash in their 100th Anniversary and have held a fund raising dinner/dance at that location, have been welcomed to hold our Annual General Meetings at the UTSC, and we have promoted the Farmer's Market along with community meetings at the UTSC.

A community meeting was held on April 10, 2018 at the Highland Creek Library to discuss the proposed student residence building on the UTSC campus located on Ellesmere Road near Military Trail. City Planner Jessica Kwan conducted the presentation with senior UTSC staff members in attendance. The maximum building height at that time was 5 stories and the proposal put forward was to increase the height to 10 stories to accommodate some 750 students. There was strong opposition to the proposal and attendees were assured that modifications would be made and another community meeting would be held shortly for further discussion. No such follow up meeting took place and we now learn that due diligence was followed and there was no obligation to have such a follow up meeting. To say the least, it will be a challenge to convince extremely upset residents particularly those within close proximity of the student residence that this was a well thought out plan by City Planning and the UTSC. Revisions made to the initial proposal now recommends a single 9 story building that will be before Scarborough Community Council for approval on July 17, 2020.

In conclusion, the image of the UTSC may be somewhat tarnished over this matter, however; the HCCA recognizes that the UTSC is an integrate part of the Highland Creek Community as an education centre and as a major employer. Student housing rentals has been a concern expressed on numerous occasions and hopefully the student resident building will to some degree resolve this issue.

Sincerely,
David Adamson, President
Highland Creek Community Association