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From: Carrie Liddy
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 11:41 AM
To: Regional Chair
Subject: Family day and Vaughan Mills Mall

Dear Chair Fisch

Please accept this email as a written deputation with regards to the December 16, item on a Family Day exemption for Vaughan Mills Mall.

As you are aware, the provincial government passed legislation to allow ONE day of the year to be set aside for families. It was an election issue during the last election, and the Liberal government moved quickly to fulfill this promise after being given a mandate to govern this province for four years.

The Family Day Act is technically still subject to the rules of Local Councils, and this case, Regional Council. I must point out that the issue has never been an election issue for York Region or for the City of Vaughan. As such, although you have the technical authority to allow exemptions of the legislation of the province, I propose that you do not have the will of the people to do so. That was already decided by the people of Ontario during the last election. I state this with the greatest of respect for your authority.

I understand the primary reason that the Vaughan Mills Mall wants an exemption from the legislation to be an economic one. The primary reason for the province granting this one day of family time, took economic impacts into consideration and after weighing the pros and cons decided to place families first for one 24 hour period of time. This argument is not a good one for the mall, as it pits quality family time against profitable gains for the mall. I have no idea how you value family time, other than to say, it is priceless. Closing the mall for one day does not exactly present an economic hardship for the mall, and it has not been proven that the sales wouldn't be generated on another day. There is a very good counter-argument that the sales are not lost, simply shifted to another day.

I understand the secondary reason for the request is jobs. The majority of the jobs generated by Vaughan Mills Mall are part-time jobs where teenagers and adults work for minimum or slightly above minimum wage. I dare say they are not skilled labor jobs that position the economy of Vaughan for the future.

Lastly, I would like to present a personal viewpoint as a mother of four children. Families need (and are) to be supported by government. Families are the underlying basis of stability to Canadian life. I probably do not have to tell you just how important the precious little family time we have, has become. My children have all had part-time jobs and the negative impact on the family when one of my children is working on a holiday is enormous.

I am asking that you please consider families and put families first for just one day in the year, and uphold the wishes of the people, and legislation of the province.

Thank you.

Carrie Liddy