

From: Irene DeJong [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Sheri Roberts <robertss@cambridge.ca>
Subject: RE: Development 0 GrandRidge

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We are writing to you as residents of Ward 5 for almost 30 years .We are not in support of a four-story complex at 0 Grand Ridge Drive.

We realize that there is a housing crisis and are also aware that one of your campaign points was to provide affordable housing. Our disappointment lies in the fact that you are willing to support this location at the expense of an entire neighborhood. We voted for you because we felt that you would have our community in your best interest and feel you should have not supported the motion. Our community will not be proud of this development. The space will not be beautiful or beneficial to the current residents.

Most residents have worked their whole life to have the privilege of living here. Most of us are now nearing retirement and will finally be able to enjoy our homes and neighborhood at leisure. Having this development in our backyard will not enhance anything about living here. Even if our home is not backing on to the development it will still impact us. It will disturb our sight line and not look attractive sticking up behind Sullivan Court.

There are several things to consider.

1. City council looked at various city-owned properties to see which ones would be suitable for affordable housing . Grand Ridge was chosen as suitable. It is not.

Reasons outlined in the paragraphs below

2. We realize no zoning has been made at this point. We hope you step up and voice concerns on behalf of our neighborhood.

3. The region is aware of the traffic concerns and has flagged it for a study. Suggestions of getting a traffic light will not solve the conditions... huge increase in traffic, not adhering to traffic speeds, flying gravel and difficulty turning on to Cedar Street.

4. Constant Gravel Pit stress for our neighborhood has been ongoing for over 25 years.

We realize that as residents we have an opportunity to raise our concerns but we need YOU in our corner. Your voice will have impact.

My husband has been a real estate agent for 37 years. It is a fact that there will be a reduction in our home value. He has witnessed problems in low-income housing areas and many clients tell him not to bother showing them homes if it is near any low income housing.

We realize that good people can live in low income housing but statistics don't lie. Whenever there is a development of this type crime goes up and property values go down. Our homes will absolutely be affected. We will have to double check that cars, garages, sheds, doors are locked. We will not be able to leave things out such as: shovels, tools, kid toys, decorations. We will need to install cameras. Many women walk in the evening - will we feel/be safe our own neighborhood?

The only time property values go up is if the new development is replacing dilapidated buildings. This is not our situation.

It is not a question of "if" negative impact will occur but a question of "when".

There is talk of providing some type of buffer between the development and the homes that back onto it. Realistically what would that buffer be? A wall? A bunch of trees that nobody takes care of and eventually die which is what happened to the so-called buffer between the gravel pit and us. Neither of these will block four stories of height not to mention the terrible sight line it provides when the residents currently view trees in the distance.

What about the environment that everybody so concerned about? We have turtles, and lots of birds especially hawks that land on our roofs. I doubt that will happen with the development there.

The real question you should be asking is - why would we want a development at 0 Grand Ridge?

This neighborhood does not see any advantages to this going forth.

We hope you take serious consideration the view of the residence in this neighborhood and stand up and fight for this community which is what we voted you in to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Clare and Irene DeJong



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