

## Response Received from Mayoral Candidate Don Hamilton

Received September 25, 2022

Thanks for your email requesting answers to your posed election related questions. Please see my responses

1. If all of the new condo buildings, and for that matter ground related residential homes, had zero parking spots included in those buildings then I would agree with you that there would be little impact to traffic. However, all of those new high rise and low rise buildings will have some parking spaces for occupant owned vehicles, so there will be traffic impacts. Our City staff obtain traffic studies done by professional traffic analysts on behalf of the developers and our professional City staff then analyze the analysis done by those analysts. Our staff then make a recommendation to Council regarding the impact to the surrounding neighbourhood road network. The City insists on a very low parking ratio around hubs such as GO-train stations. The City also pushes for the provision for car-share facilities in buildings so that if someone needs to use a vehicle for a short time they can. Recently the City approved allowing a developer to pre-sell units with or without parking spaces and then build only the number of spaces that were sold but still providing visitor/accessible parking. So we are looking at ways to allow people to get around without vehicles but many people do like to use their vehicles.
2. The option currently exists for anyone to apply through the City's Committee of Adjustment to create a second dwelling unit within their home. Often referred to as "basement apartments", as long as there is sufficient parking available and the owner follows all building and fire code rules, then the Committee of Adjustment generally allows the secondary suite. The problem occurs with "illegal" units that are not safe for people to live in. I do not support those.
3. The City of Markham has a goal of net-zero by 2051. We continually innovate to try and make this happen. We own a company called Markham District Energy (MDEI) that currently heats and cools almost every building in Markham Centre ... condos, townhomes, Bill Crothers SS, Amica, Pan Am Centre, York University etc. MDEI also heats, cools and supplies steam for cleaning instruments to Markham Stouffville Hospital and the Cornell Community Centre. This creates huge

efficiencies for those buildings. It's a story in itself. We also have many roof top solar installations on City owned buildings. We could get down to the nitty gritty of taps in washrooms being automated to save on water consumption. I have advocated for green roofs, more park space, bird friendly guidelines, dark sky friendly lighting, etc., and in fact all of these items are imbedded in the City's building guidelines. All of our buildings that we approve must be LEED Silver level or above. One problem that we have had is that sometimes developers would like to provide what is called Cash-in-lieu instead of actual physical greenspace. This is something that the City negotiates but that I push our staff to obtain as much physical parkland as possible for every project that comes to the City. I currently advocate for additional green space and that will continue when I am the Mayor.

4. Not in my mind and my voting record will show that. However, when ROPA 7 was brought before Regional Council, the developer friendly Council members voted to support incursion into land previously designated as agricultural. You can see my environmental voting record at York Region Council here

- <https://www.stopsprawlyr.ca/accountability.html>