

Response from Jim Jones candidate for Markham Regional Councillor  
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1. My plan builds network oriented communities including high-density developments around transit so that people can live, work and play all within that hub. This is exactly why I am seeking re-election for a 6th term as a Markham Regional Councillor, this model must come to fruition. We have to locate growth around transit. Not only that, we need to upgrade our GO trains from diesel to electric, we need to conduct proof of concepts for vertical farming and autonomous vehicles. York Region has announced an autonomous vehicle pilot project and if elected, I will work really hard to have that project located in Markham. We need to build transit that connects the GTA and makes it easy for us to take transit to get to where we need to go. My plan protects the environment while accommodating the growth that is inevitably coming and has been mandated by the province. We all need to work together. I am ready to lead the charge and work with all the players involved in building a world class transit system with destination hubs at each of the stops. This will take time and is a lot of hard work, however, I did it with Markham Centre back in the 1990's and I will do it again, if given the opportunity.
2. Yes. Right now, people can apply to the City of Markham to build a basement apartment in their home for example.
3. Yes, I will. Part of my plan calls for us to implement a vertical farming proof of concept. If elected, I will ensure that proof of concept happens fairly quickly. I would like to see us growing our own produce so we are not relying on food from California. Plus, vertical farming uses 1% of the water that normal farming does. My plan also calls for an autonomous vehicle proof of concept - we must take the steps necessary to reduce our carbon footprint as soon as possible. As mentioned above, I will work hard to get the autonomous vehicle project that York Region has announced to be held in Markham. Markham has over 1,500 high-tech and life sciences companies. We are the right place to locate that pilot project in my opinion. The time for action is now and I am ready to work hard for another 4 years to ensure we make smart decisions.
4. I don't think they are necessary when we focus high-density development around transit. I would like to see the provincial government bury the hydro lines along the 407 to free up land to build a light rail transit system from Oshawa to the Pearson to Hamilton and

place development along that rail system as well as the 407 and Highway 7. It is important that we keep as much green space as possible to maintain healthy living.