

City Council Now Has Chance to Make the Right Decision in Orville Station Case

Ottawa, Ontario – September 11, 2009 City Council Now Has Chance to Make the Right Decision in Orville Station Case

City of Ottawa Planning Department staff continue to steadfastly support the Orville Station Site Plan and repeatedly reiterated their position that this is good planning to Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) on Tuesday, Sept 8, 2009. After presentations from all delegations, Committee members had the opportunity to pose questions and comments to all delegations, planning staff and City of Ottawa Legal Services. With a 4-4 tie, Dharma Developments demonstrated to 50% Planning and Environment Committee that proceeding with the appeal was a detriment to the City.

Councillor Qadri's own presentation demonstrated that the nature of the appeals is not fully understood. "While focussing on the number of variances, which are truly minor in nature, Councillor Qadri has overlooked the fact that there are no real planning issues with the proposed project" says Akash Sinha, President of Dharma Developments.

Councillor Gord Hunter pointed out the contradiction within Council's own mandate of wanting to avoid going to the Ontario Municipal Board, yet here Council is actually voting to spend money and voluntarily go to the OMB.

City solicitor Tim Marc noted that its appeal was strictly on the process of the application, and directed PEC to take its decision on the planning merits from its own Planning Department. He also noted that the City of Ottawa Legal Department will have to find outside planning consultants to make its case. Thus far, it has been unable to do so.

Mr. Sinha stated: "A vote directing council to proceed to OMB on this particular case tells us that:

- The City of Ottawa does not believe in its own Official Plan Policies;
- City Hall thinks nothing of spending close to \$30,000 of Tax Payers money on an OMB appeal that has no Planning Merit;
- Council does not trust its own Planning Department;
- City Hall is willing to ignore the hundreds of emails from its own citizens asking that this appeal not proceed."

Dharma remains hopeful that the project will be allowed to proceed with no appeals, and Council will decide against spending tax payer dollars frivolously for a Site Plan that meets the goals of the City's Official Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement, and has the support of City Planning Staff and citizens of Stittsville and Ottawa at large.

See attached transcript from interview with Akash Sinha on CBC Radio - September 8, 2009

About Dharma Developments

Dharma Developments is passionate about building homes. Our homes are built smart with innovative designs and technologies. Whether a custom home, town home or condominium development, a Dharma home guarantees that your investment has been designed to provide clean indoor air quality and the energy efficiency that you expect from a green home. We are proud to be known as a green builder and are committed to being an environmental leader in the Ottawa home construction industry. Dharma's homes combine fresh, innovative design with practical features that make the home smarter and more comfortable. Dharma takes great care to use the greenest possible approach to building, which contributes to a healthier home, greener community and planet. Dharma means 'a way of life' or 'code of conduct'. The company holds high ideals for developing homes and communities that are a reflection of today's values and priorities. Dharma Developments believes in the importance of a strong, healthy community and contributes by

actively supporting charitable organizations, arts and recreation. www.DharmaDevelopments.com

Media Contact:

Akash Sinha
President
Dharma Developments
asinha@dharmadevelopments.com
613.482.2800 ext 111