



vyn inc.

446 garner road west, ancaster on L9G 3K9 | t 905 304 7129 | f 905.648.5257 | vynflowers.com

October 28, 2016

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

As a 3rd generation family farming business in Ancaster, I am very concerned about the results of the recent City of Hamilton Planning Committee meeting held on September 6th, 2016. I'm concerned for several reasons, but my primary concerns are about our livelihood and our businesses located within the Book Road West Lands. Our farm located at 446 Garner Rd west, was originally purchased by my father Ralph Vyn and grandfather Jacob Vyn in 1965. With a long history in the Ancaster/Hamilton area, the farm has changed from raising hogs, to wholesale produce, to Pick-Your-Own fruits and vegetables, and finally to flowers.

Today, we operate two separate flower businesses off the same location, both successful, and both growing. Vyn Inc. grows and sells dried flowers and botanicals that are shipped throughout Canada and the US. Our products can be found in Fortinos, Homesense and Winners in Ancaster all the way to Hobby Lobby, Safeway, and Whole Foods in California. JR Vyn Inc., owned and operated by my brother, Jim, grows, processes, and sells wholesale cut flowers throughout Ontario. These flowers are distributed through wholesalers, and are also found in major retailers like Fortinos, Sobeys, and several others.

In business, growth is a requirement. Without growth, a company will eventually cease to operate. We are growing, and that growth requires change which should be nurtured, not stifled by lack of thought and planning by our municipal government.

If our farm is put into the Greenbelt, our ability to grow will be severely impacted. We will not be able to build new, more efficient barns, coolers, and driers. (I currently have 29 trailers full of product, because I have out grown our facility). We will be forced to maintain the status quo. We will not be able to continue to change, adapt, and maintain a strong and successful place within our Ancaster/Hamilton community. Likewise, we will not be able to continue to employ and grow employment in our community.

It is clear after watching the video of the planning meeting held September 6th, 2016, that Councilor Ferguson may not have considered the impact this decision has on



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those businesses operating in this area of land. We are long standing, hardworking individuals that trust our elected officials have our best interest in mind.

Furthermore, there is no scientific, environmental, or planning reason why these lands should be put into the Greenbelt. I fail to see the logic, given the proximity these lands are to commercial lands, retail stores, (including Walmart, Canadian Tire, Winners, Lowes, Longos, LCBO, and many more just a few hundred metres away), a growing high school, and the future airport employment lands.

I ask that you please revert back to the Councils decision in December 2015 to keep these lands out of the Greenbelt, so as to not handicap the third generation businesses successfully operating on these lands.

Sincerely,

David Vyn

president

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