



OOGRA, connecting with the community!
Old Orchard Grove Ratepayers' Association

SAHRA



South Armour Heights Residents' Association

Press Release: Resident Associations call for pre-council Public Community Roundtables on Developments

- Local ratepayers feel shut out from North York Community Council process.
- Major development decisions are being made behind closed doors in Community Council proceedings.
- With new provincial legislation replacing the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, it is a critical time to allow for meaningful local ratepayers input into local council decisions. Otherwise the local council planning processes will be worse than the former OMB processes.

The Old Orchard Grove Ratepayers Association (OOGRA) is a Residents' Association representing City of Toronto residents in the area bounded by Avenue Road, Bathurst Street, Wilson Avenue and Lawrence Avenue. We represent approximately 2500 households. The South Armour Heights Residents' Association (SAHRA) represents approximately 850 households in the area bounded by Yonge Blvd, Avenue Road, the 401 and Brooke Avenue.

OOGRA and SAHRA have written letters to Mayor Tory and Toronto City Council and to MPP Colle to express our concern about the public being excluded from meaningful input to decision-making at North York Community Council (NYCC) proceedings. We have observed a consistent pattern where Councilors negotiate with developers in advance of Council meetings, agreements are made, and motions are prepared. When deputations come forward they are largely ignored. The pre-drafted motions are introduced and voted on.

OOGRA and SAHRA are calling for change to the North York Community Council.

We are asking that Mayor Tory and City Council City of Toronto and MPP Colle, consider implementation of a **formal pre-council Public Community Roundtable (including interested members of the public, residents' associations, city officials and applicants) to be held to draft motions that are acceptable to all parties, with mediation as required. This would take place prior to Community Council meetings.**

We are confident that Mayor Tory will appreciate OOGRA's and SAHRA's constructive and proactive approach to improve the City of Toronto's effectiveness and transparency.

France Rochette, Chair OOGRA
Sheila Dunlop, Secretary SAHRA