

**From:** Talia Gonzales [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:44 PM  
**To:** Town Clerks <[TownClerk@oakville.ca](mailto:TownClerk@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Midtown Oakville

Dear members of council,

Hello my name is Talia Gonzales, I am often at council meetings to spectate. I am writing to you all today pertaining to the recent discussions pertaining to midtown that happened on January 30th and 31st. Although I was unable to attend the 31st discussion meeting I was informed it went similarly to the first which is why I am writing to you all today.

While I appreciated the enthusiasm from both the audience and from some of you in terms of the more “recent compromises” being suggested by audience members I felt a bit of annoyance at the reception from some. I understand that density is an important issue to address in Oakville as it is likely one of the ways we can solve the housing crisis but why are these people only suggesting taking notes from European cities now rather than in the past? I simply find it a bit hypocritical that the same crowd that would actively scoff at the talk of including density in Oakville at past meetings have suddenly turned a new page, and that now that these older supporters like these ideas; some of you seem to as well.

I will not repeat my colleagues' points on densification and its importance and I *very* much enjoyed O.M.G's presentation. Why do we not try to adapt it to other areas of Oakville? If some of you along with the public are so truly against high rises in Oakville for midtown (some even stating it will turn into a “ghetto”, which being completely honest with you as a student of history, is **not** at all close to the definition of the word from how they seem to refer to it as), I believe that this would be a great solution; if we implement this style throughout Oakville to densify the areas instead of only building condos or 2 story townhouses I believe that the lower building could in fact be implemented to midtown quiet nicely. And if we also implement the CPPS process that was mentioned on the 30th I believe it would go much faster than how it currently is. Perhaps an 8 story multiplex nearby lakeshore would be a good show of faith and commitment to this plan.

I would also like to add very briefly that I quite enjoy the midtown plan because on a street level it focuses on the importance of walking, cycling and transit as additional means of getting around, **not just cars**. Because if we have huge parking lots taking up space these places will feel unwelcome to anyone who is not in a car. As someone who often has to walk across **huge and unnecessary** parking lots to reach destinations I feel unsafe walking or taking the bus. But with the extended side walks, separated bike paths, and even a separated bus lane shown in the newest examples for midtown, I am ecstatic for this development. Now I know people are very car obsessed and so not only is this development good for those who do not want nor wish to drive, it will also be good for those who **do** drive as with more people taking these alternatives there will be more room on the road and in these parking spots for you. Perhaps this type of more alternative infrastructure should be implemented outside of midtown as well as it would surely help clear congestion, can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs and I feel like this would help the town greatly.

Talia Gonzales

Something I would like to ask a select few of you who have so far been initially against the development because it will “ruin the character of the neighbourhood” (which speaking as a member of the younger generation, *really* does not matter in comparison to what the **actual** issues are), I just have to ask two questions; Do you *truly and sincerely* care for this project that will fundamentally outlive you for the sake of those who at the end of the day will *actually* live there? Or do you only care about this project and how it will affect **you** personally? Because being completely honest with you all, as someone who mainly spectates these meetings, it sure feels like it's the second one when it comes to a handful of you.

I don't want written responses to these questions (though if we have chatted in the council room before I do not mind), I want **action**, I want to see the change you all care for when it comes to the housing crisis and densification. Take the O.M.G presentation as an example of what you can implement **throughout** Oakville, **not just** midtown.

Thank you  
Talia Gonzales

