



Vaishno Devi Temple

3259 Regional Rd 25, Oakville, ON L6M 4J3

Dear Mayor of Oakville and Members of the Council,

We, the **Vaishno Devi Hindu Mandir** (temple) and its Congregation comprised of entire Hindu Community of Halton are writing to you on behalf of the **Vaishno Devi Hindu Mandir** (temple) to express our deep disenchantment and frustration with the recommendations of the Oakville Allocation Staff Report provided by staff regarding the Allocation program, particularly as it relates to the Palermo development where our community temple is situated since ~ 1990.

It has come to our attention that the recommendation suggests **withholding Allocation from Palermo**, that could potentially may not be released until 2031. Such a decision has raised significant concerns within our community, particularly due to the fact that this continued deprivation impacts as to when our temple property (*community by implication*) will receive the basic necessities of water and sanitary service connections. **As an Organization of recognised Hindu community that has patiently waited for such services for over 30 years; the considered decision to further delay provision of these services is quite frankly disheartening and implies ignoring our community at large.** More so, as the official authorities who matter have been promising the water supply at the earliest to the congregation on their visits to the Vaishnodevi Temple – **A promise the community trusted until now.** Temple caters to the large community especially of Oakville and that of Milton and Burlington. To accommodate the growing needs of the community we need to expand but lack of basic water supply is impeding our efforts.

Our discussions over the past many years and repeated promises made by the authorities that had assured and led us to believe that **with new development in Palermo area we will also be able to get these most basic services.** However, the prospect of delaying allocation to Palermo could extend our wait for services for potentially another decade or more. This delay would only heighten our community's distrust in system and hinder the progress of our community focused future initiatives. **Do you have any other institutional example of this kind in Oakville? Perhaps NOT.**

We respectfully urge Council to reconsider this position formulated by staff, reject it, and forthwith provide allocation of most basic necessary services to the temple.

Community believes that you will consider our **Temple and Hindu Community** concerns in right earnest. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you want Hindu Community to share costs for it, kindly provide us the estimate, expected %age of community contribution and the time frame to provide services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Temple Executive Committee

Keshav Agnihotri, *Ph.D. LL.B.*
President

Snehal Katarey
Director
647-631-8285