

## Petition Against the Rezoning of Ward 5

We, residents of [REDACTED], are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed rezoning plan that would allow the construction of student accommodation and multistory buildings in our community. This rezoning aims to accommodate the growing needs of Sheridan College, but we believe it will have significant negative impacts on our neighborhood and Oakville as a whole:

1. **Preservation of Community Character:** South Oakville is cherished for its spacious layout, family-friendly environment, low traffic volume, and safety. The introduction of student accommodation buildings would drastically change the landscape and atmosphere, potentially undermining the residential nature that defines our community.
2. **Impact on Local Traffic and Parking:** The increase in population density due to housing more college students and potentially new businesses will likely exacerbate traffic congestion and reduce parking availability. Our streets and parking facilities are currently tailored to accommodate the needs of residents and local businesses, not high-density occupancy.
3. **Strain on Local Services:** Accommodating more residents in multistory buildings would place additional strain on local infrastructure and services, including schools, healthcare, and emergency services. Our community's facilities may not be equipped to handle this growth without significant upgrades, which could disrupt daily life during their implementation. Basic construction infrastructure should also be considered.
4. **Environmental and Quality of Life Concerns:** More buildings can lead to less green space, increased noise, and greater environmental pollution, which diminishes the quality of life for current residents. Maintaining green areas and a quiet environment is essential for our community's well-being.
5. **Long-term Implications for Property Values:** There is a genuine concern among homeowners that the influx of transient student populations and the change in neighborhood aesthetics might negatively affect property values.
6. **Inconsistency with Neighborhood :** The proposed rezoning would disrupt the established framework for development and could set a precedent for further deviations from the neighborhood's intended character.
7. **Optimal Location for Student Housing:** North of Sheridan College would be a more optimal place for student housing, being closer to major stores and amenities, which would better serve the needs of the student population without disrupting the existing residential character of our ward 5.
8. **Introduction of Undesirable Demographic:** Rezoning could introduce a non-desirable demographic to an area of the city that has historically been known for its safety and luxury, potentially affecting the overall sense of security and exclusivity in Oakville.
9. **Inconsistency in Socioeconomic Status:** The socioeconomic status of those who would reside in these buildings is not consistent with our neighborhood, potentially leading to social and economic disparities that could negatively impact community cohesion and well-being. Although intended as student housing, there is no regulation prohibiting people at a lower socioeconomic status from residing in these buildings.
10. **Community Consultation and Planning:** We urge the city and relevant stakeholders to engage in thorough consultations with all impacted parties. It is crucial that any development considers the long-term interests and feedback of the residents in our neighbourhood, not just the immediate needs of the college.

We respectfully request that the city conducts comprehensive impact assessments and explores alternative solutions that would support student housing without compromising the integrity and quality of life in Ward 5

Best regards

Carlos Acosta and Monica Escobar