

'Pigsty' property draws neighbour's ire

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Staff Reporter

Calling Vincenzo Maiorano's property "disgraceful" and a "pigsty,"

Markham Council Tuesday denied the farmer's request for zoning changes allowing people to live in a second dwelling on his McCowan Rd. farm.

The property is located at McCowan Rd. and 19th Ave. in north Markham -- just south of the Stouffville border. Despite arguments from



Markham councillors have denied a request by the owner of this property at McCowan Rd. and 19th Ave. to allow a zoning change for a second residence. Councillors said they are fed up with property's appearance.

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Ward 3 Councillor Joe Virgilio that allowing Maiorano a temporary one-year extension would prompt him to clean up his property, and Regional Councillor Ralph Aselin's concerns about tenants now residing in the house, council said enough is enough.

"We would be giving this gentleman another chance and he's had umpteen chances," said Ward 1 Councillor Bill O'Donnell.

"This man has caused problems on McCowan Rd. from 16th Ave. to 19th Ave. with his signs and his garbage and barrels full of junk. Where I come from they call them gypsy camps. It's a blight on the neighbourhood and an insult to the neighbours and for the neighbours the torture goes on and on."

Maiorano was applying for a permanent change in the zoning by-law to permit the continued use of the dwelling for farm workers. A temporary by-law allowing that use had expired. The farm employs two full-time workers, only one of which lives on-site, and several seasonal workers.

Eleven of Maiorano's neighbours are opposed to his request. They presented a petition to council Tuesday and gave councillors an earful.

The second dwelling presently houses the family of one full-time farm worker but they have only lived there since March.

Previously it housed various tenants, not farm workers, neighbours

said. A mobile trailer parked on the property is actually being used to house the temporary workers -- but it has no toilet facilities or running water, they told council.

Even the planning department expressed concerns over the "potential sanitary/septic facility problems" with the trailer.

"You didn't create the problem," one neighbour told council Tuesday night.

"But it's up to you to solve it. We've put up with it for 10 years and it's only getting worse. This man flaunts your by-laws and flaunts that property in your face and as long as he's here we pay the price."

"We, the neighbours, are fed up," said another.

"Get the health people, the fire department, the by-law people the standards people and go through the whole place. Then you can decide for yourselves."

Council did agree to ensure the tenants living in the home now would have adequate time to make alternate arrangements.

It denied the application for a permanent change, then denied a staff proposal for a one-year extension.

Council also passed a motion asking the town's by-law department to step up its enforcement campaign in an effort to get the property cleaned up.

A report on the situation is expected by July 7.

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