Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment

April 30th, 2019

File:

A/15/19

Address:

5 Balsam Street, Markham

Applicant:

Mrs. Shahla Rasheed & Mr. Ghulam Mustafa

Agent:

HNS ENGINEERING INC

Hearing Date:

Wednesday May 08, 2019

The following comments are provided on behalf of the East Team:

The applicant is requesting relief from the following requirements of the Residential Two (R2*190*192) Zone in By-law 177-96, as amended, as they relate to a proposed basement apartment unit, to permit:

a) Table A1 & Section 6.5:

an accessory basement dwelling unit, whereas the By-law permits no more than one semidetached dwelling/dwelling unit on a lot;

b) Parking by-law 28-97, Section 3.0:

a minimum of 2 parking spaces, whereas the By-law requires a minimum of 3 parking spaces (two for the principle dwelling and one for the proposed accessory basement unit).

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The subject property is located on the east side of Balsam Street, south of White's Hill Avenue and east of Cornell Centre Boulevard. The property is located within a residential neighbourhood comprised of lane-based detached and semi-detached dwellings. There is an existing two-storey semi-detached 167.64 m² (1,804.46 ft²) dwelling on the property. Parking to accommodate the existing dwelling is located at the rear yard, including one space within a private garage and another on a driveway/parking pad. Vehicle access is also provided to a public lane abutting the rear property line. The site plan submitted in support of this application is attached as Appendix 'B'.

Proposal

The applicant is proposing a secondary suite in the basement of the existing dwelling. The proposed secondary suite will have independent access provided by a new door on the south side of the building to access the rear yard. No other changes are proposed to the exterior of the dwelling or the property.

Provincial Policies

Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act - Province of Ontario

In 2011, the Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act amended various sections of the Ontario Planning Act to facilitate the creation of second units by:

- Requiring municipalities to establish Official Plan policies and Zoning By-law provisions allowing secondary units in detached, semi-detached and row houses, as well as in ancillary structures
- Providing authority for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to make regulations authorizing the use of, and prescribing standards for, second units.

Under the Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act, 'Second Units' also known as secondary suites are defined as "self-contained residential units with kitchen and bathroom facilities within dwellings or within structures accessory to dwellings."

Official Plan and Zoning

2014 Official Plan (partially approved on Nov 24/17, and further updated on April 9/18)

The 2014 Official Plan designates the subject property "Residential Low Rise", which provides for low rise housing forms including semi-detached dwellings. The definition of a "Secondary Suite" in the 2014 Official Plan is "a second residential unit in a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse that consists of one or more rooms designed, occupied or intended for use, including occupancy, by one or more persons as an independent and separate residence in which a facility for cooking, sleeping facilities and sanitary facilities are provided for the exclusive use of such person or persons."

Section 8.13.8 states that it is the policy of Council that in considering an application to amend the zoning by-law to permit the establishment of a secondary suite where provided for in the 2014 Official Plan, that Council shall be satisfied that an appropriate set of development standards are provided for in the zoning by-law including:

- a) The building type in which the secondary suite is contained;
- b) The percentage of the floor area of the building type devoted to the secondary suite;
- c) The number of dwelling units permitted on the same lot;
- d) The size of the secondary suite;
- e) The applicable parking standards; and
- f) The external appearance of the main dwelling.

As part of the City initiated zoning by-law consolidation project, Council recently considered the issue of second suites within the City. On May 29th, 2018, Council voted not to permit second suites as of right in any single detached, semi-detached, or townhouse dwelling zone category.

Zoning By-Law 177-96

The subject property is zoned 'Residential Two*190*192 (R2*190*192)' under By-law 177-96, as amended, which permits various types of low rise housing forms, including semi-detached dwellings. Exception *190 provides area specific zone standards which includes permission of accessory dwellings located above a private garage in either the main building or an accessory building on the same lot (i.e. above an attached or detached garage). Considering the proposed accessory unit is not located above a private garage, the applicant has submitted a variance application to permit it within the basement instead. Exception 192 relates to zone standards for corner lots and an additional permitted use of semi-detached dwellings with attached private garages and prescribes area specific development standards.

Parking Standards By-law 28-97

The proposed secondary suite also does not comply with the requirements of Parking Standards By-law 28-97, as amended, which requires two parking spaces for the semi-detached unit and an additional parking space for the proposed accessory unit. Since no changes are proposed to the onsite parking configuration, the applicant is requesting a variance to reduce the onsite parking requirements to allow the accessory unit. Further details are provided in the comment section below.

Applicant's Stated Reason(s) for Not Complying with Zoning

According to the information provided by the applicant, the reason for not complying with Zoning is, "the by-law does not allow second suites in the area".

Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Undertaken

The owner has completed a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) on January 30, 2019 to confirm the variances required for the proposed development.

COMMENTS

The Planning Act states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment:

- a) The variance must be minor in nature;
- b) The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee of Adjustment, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- c) The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained;
- d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

Secondary Suites

Engineering staff confirmed that the existing sanitary sewer system has adequate capacity to accommodate the secondary suite. The Fire and Emergency Services Department have no objections provided the secondary suite is registered with the City and complies with the Ontario Building and Fire Codes. Should this application be approved, the applicant will be required to obtain a building permit to ensure the secondary suite complies with these regulations.

The City of Markham is committed to promoting affordable and shared housing opportunities. Secondary suites help the City increase the availability of affordable housing forms and provide support to achieve its affordable housing target required by the Province. Planning staff are of the opinion that the application meets the criteria under Section 8.13.8 of the 2014 Official Plan for the establishment of a secondary suite and therefore have no objections.

Reduced Parking Spaces

As noted, Parking Standards By-law 28-97 requires two parking spaces be provided for the semidetached unit and an additional space for the accessory dwelling unit or secondary suite. The existing single-car garage and driveway currently provide a total two parking spaces.

As shown in Appendix B, the rear lane adjacent to the subject property intersects with another public lane along the north side yard of the site. This lane to lane intersection creates a curved rear lot line which limits the potential of adding a parking pad that would comply with the minimum width requirements of Parking Standards By-law 28-97, as amended. An extended driveway at this location could pose safety concerns with respect to site lines at the lane to lane intersection. Further, requiring an additional parking space will result in changes to the subject property that reduce soft landscaping in the rear yard. Soft landscaping plays an important part of good storm water management practice by reducing the amount of soft surface area that provides for the infiltration of rain water. Staff do not have concerns with the requested variance to reduce parking for the accessory dwelling unit.

The applicant should be aware that no overnight parking is permitted on City of Markham public streets unless an overnight parking pass or exemption is obtained through the By-law and Licensing Department.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of April 23, 2019. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

CONCLUSION

Planning Staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, and are of the opinion that the variance request meets the four tests of the Planning Act and have no objection. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

The onus is ultimately on the applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the zoning by-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the Planning Act required for the granting of minor variances.

Please see Appendix "A" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

PREPARED BY:

Aqsa Malik, Planner, Zoning and Special Projects

REVIEWED BY:

Stephen Corr, Senior Planner, East District

File Path: Amanda\File\ 19 112476 \Documents\District Team Comments Memo

APPENDIX "A" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/15/19

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains;
- 2. That the variances apply only to the subject development, in substantial conformity with the plan(s) attached as 'Appendix B' to this Staff Report and received by the City of Markham on May 1st, 2019, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Director of Planning and Urban Design or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to his or her satisfaction:
- 3. That the owner submit, if required by the Chief Building Official, a third-party report prepared by an architect or professional engineer licensed in the Province of Ontario, to assess compliance of existing construction with the provisions of the Ontario Building Code, and in particular relating to the change of use from a dwelling containing a single suite to a dwelling containing more than one suite;
- 4. That the Owner register the home as a two-unit house with the City of Markham Fire & Emergency Services Department, and satisfy any and all conditions for registration, to the satisfaction of the Fire Chief.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

Aqsa Malik, Planner, Zoning and Special Projects

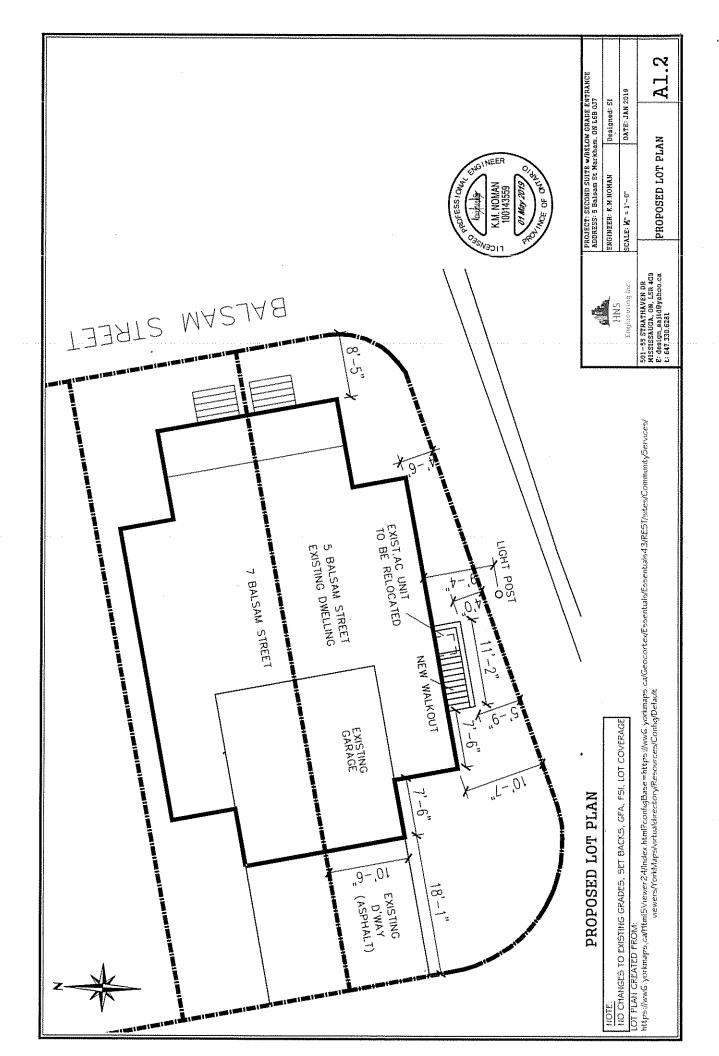
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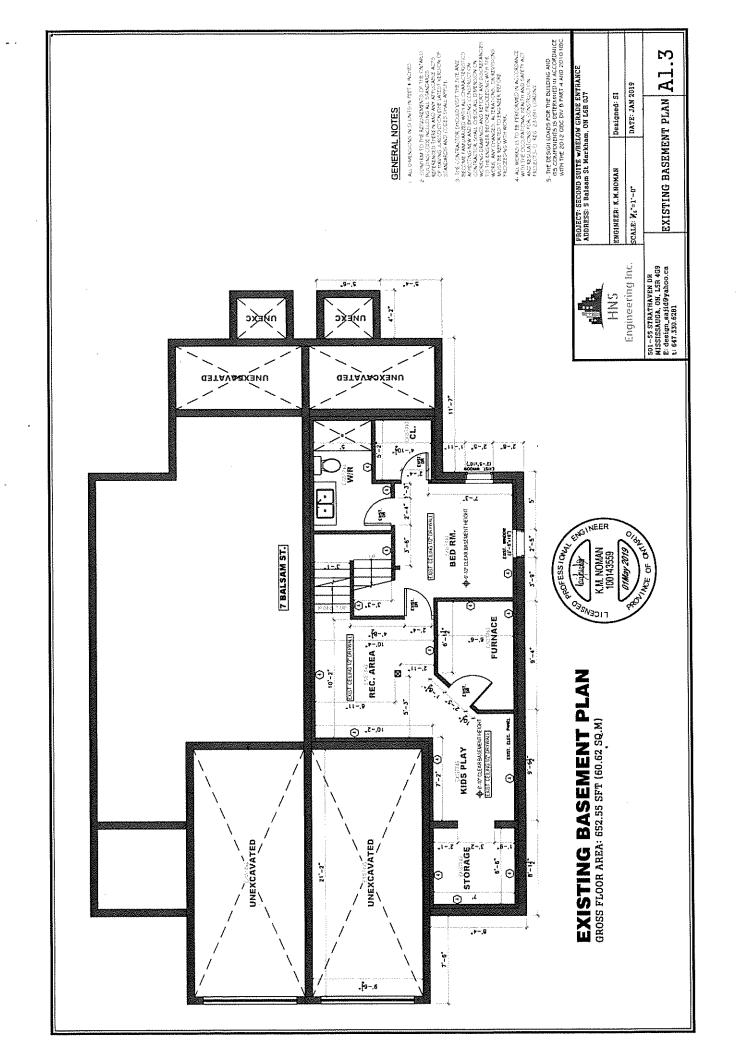


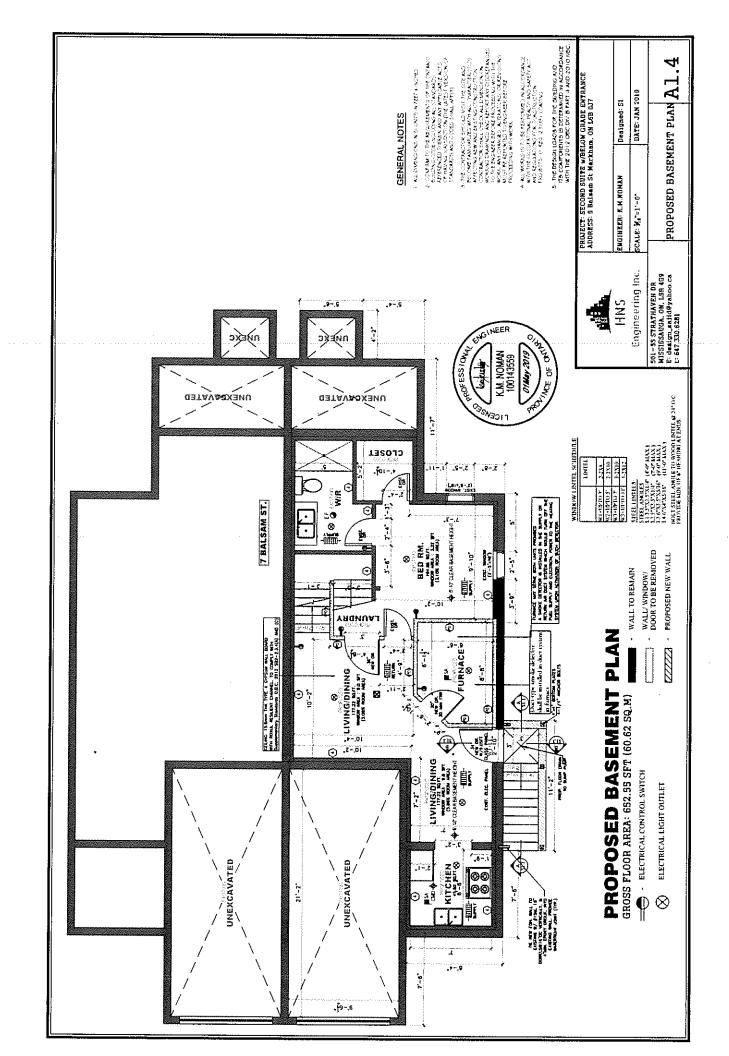
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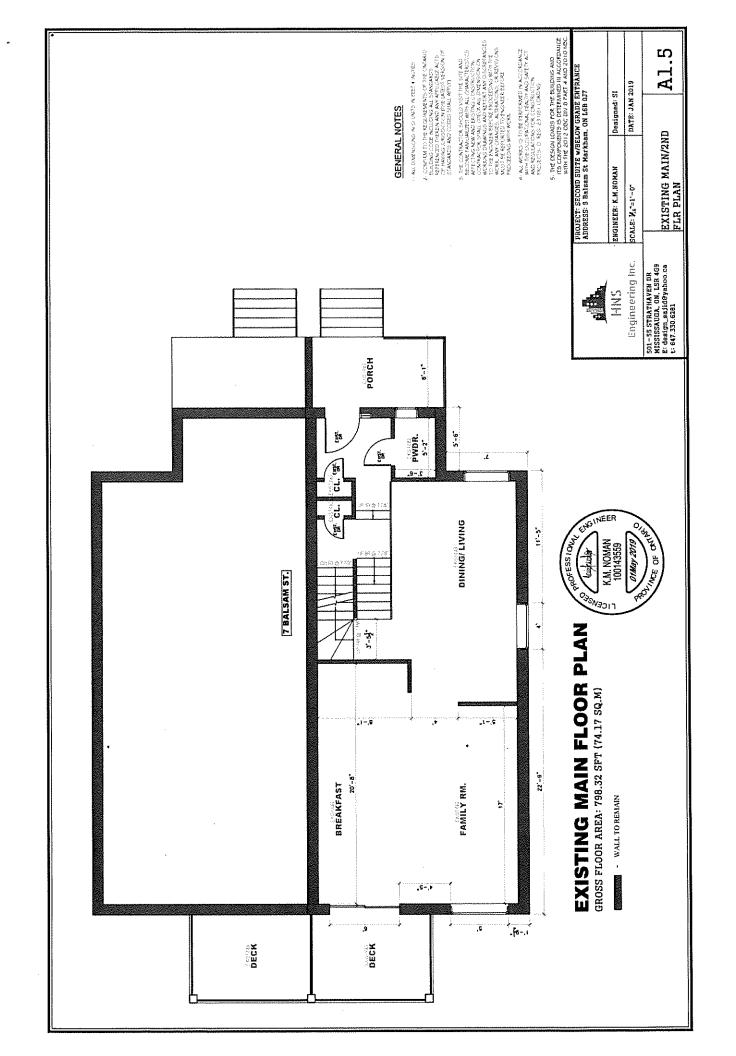


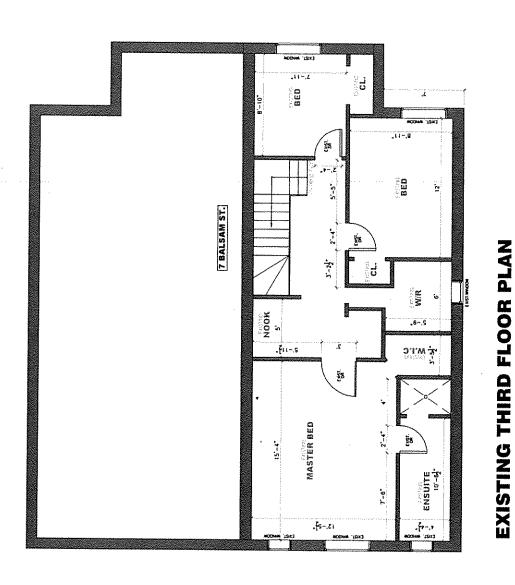
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GENERAL NOTES

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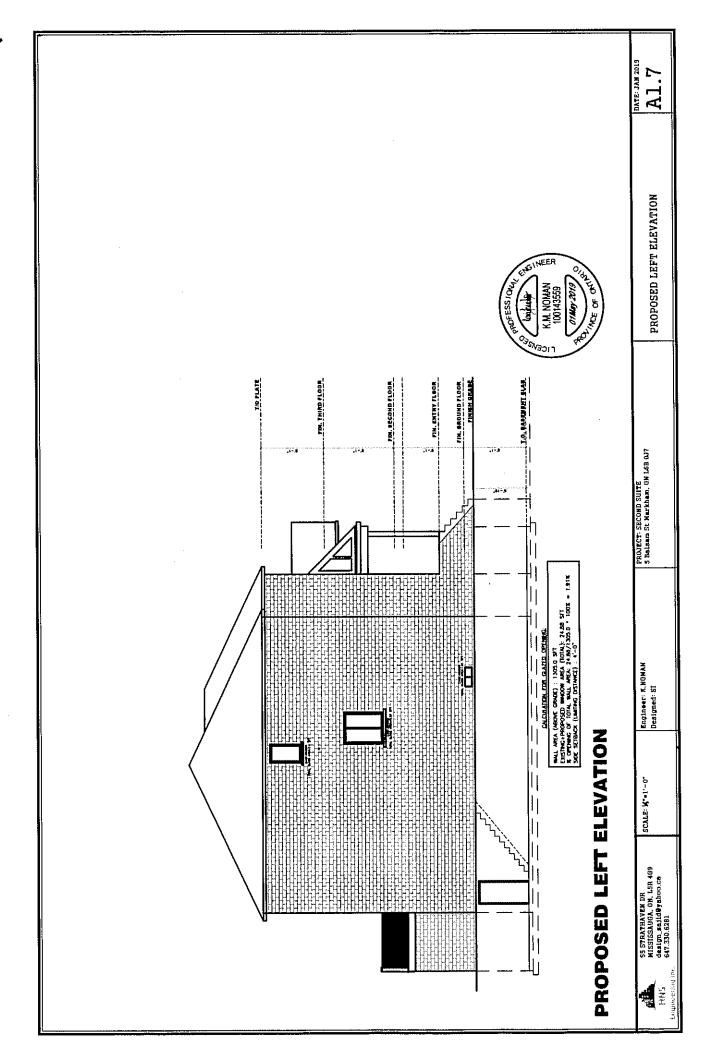
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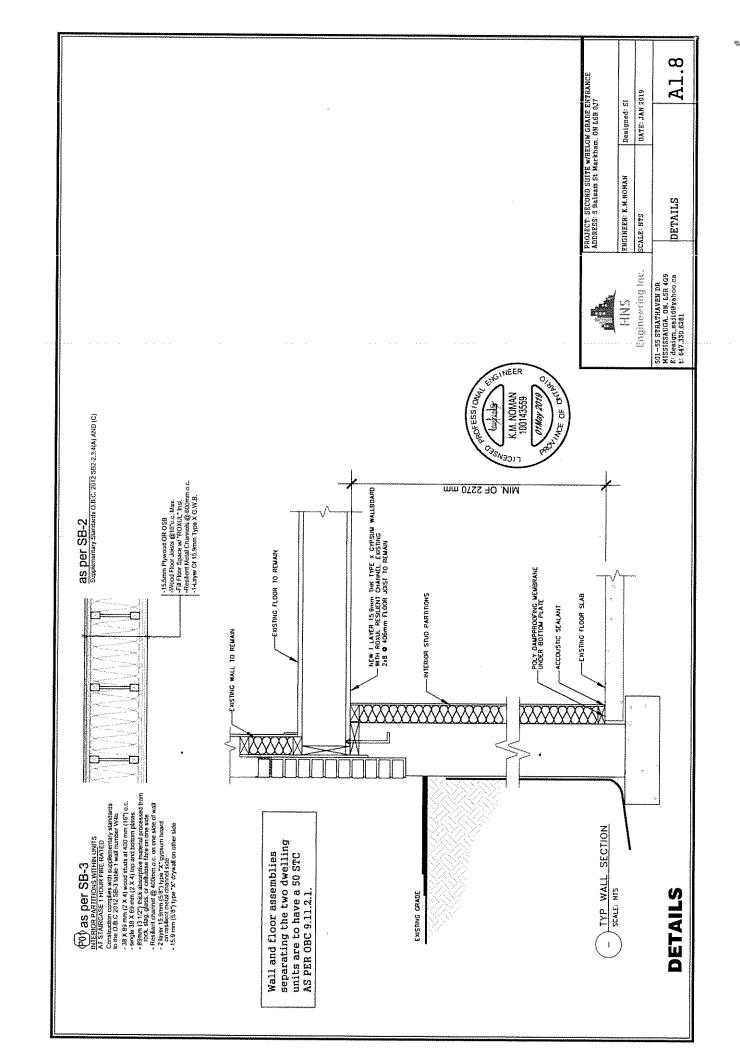
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Engineering Inc.

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4) ALL LAMINATED VENEER LUMBER (L.V.L.) BEAMS, GIFDER TRUSSES, AND METAL HANGER CONNECTIONS SUPPORTING ROOF FRAMING TO BE DESIGNED & CERTIFED BY TRUSS MANUFACTURER.

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2) REINFORCING STEEL SHALL CONFORM TO CSA-G30-18M GRADE 400R.

PROJECT: SECOND SUITE 5 Balsam St Markham, ON L68 OJ7

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ss sthathaven dh mississauga, oh, lsr ags design_eajid@yahoo.ca 647.330.6281

SCALE: NTS

Engineer: K.NOMAN Designed: SI

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

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