



June 4, 2021

**AAMJIWNAANG
FIRST NATION
Band Council**

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Development at 1736 St. Clair Parkway

Aamjiwnaang Members;

In light of the recent events at 1736 St. Clair Parkway, we wanted to inform the community on where this item stands at the Council table.

On July 22, 2019, a business moratorium was implemented as we began the development of a business by-law in consultation with the community, which is now posted for community comment. The business by-law is intended to ensure all proposed on-reserve businesses are carefully planned and properly developed, ensuring the health and safety of all community members.

The certificate of possession holder of 1736 St. Clair Parkway presented a proposal to Council in 2019 to construct a gas station at the same location. A petition under our Constitution was submitted to Council on August 6, 2019, which was signed by 64 community members. The petition stated the proposed location of the gas station would be detrimental to the environment, and the safety, health, and security of our members and as such the petitioners were requesting that the proposed gas station be opposed.

While the business moratorium was in place, a cigar shop at this location, along with other businesses within the community were opened. While these businesses were opened in light of the existing moratorium, it was determined that they did not pose a health or safety risk to the community. In addition, no community petitions were filed opposing any of these other business openings. .

On May 31, 2021, without approval from the Council and in direct violation of the continuing development moratorium, Claybar Contracting began construction on what was assumed to be a gas station. This assumption was supported by the fact that Claybar specializes in Petroleum Contracting.

On the evening of June 2, 2021, a Special Council Meeting was held to discuss possible courses of action to mediate the situation. While the parties seek to mediate a resolution, Council decided to issue a Trespass Notice to the Construction Company in order to halt any further construction. This will allow Chief and Council to meet with the land owner in order to discuss development plans.

On June 3, 2021, with the arrival of underground gas tanks, several Community Members took it upon themselves to protect the community's interests and immediately halt any further construction.

We respect the decision of these members as it is our collective responsibility as Anishinabek people to peacefully protest against unwanted development and actions that potentially compromise the health and safety of the community. With that being said, we wish for the peace to be kept as we pursue a path forward in the mediation of the development at 1736 St. Clair Parkway.

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AAMJIWNAANG

Chief and Council