

**From:** Neil R. Zaph  
**Sent:** Mon 3/25/2019 9:13 AM  
**To:** Clerks Richmondhill  
**Subject:** Public Input - Calling Richmond Hill a "Town" or "City".

Clerk's Office,  
Mayor Barrow, in the Richmond Hill Liberal, asked for public input into an item to be discussed at Council. Please add the following. Thank you.  
Neil Zaph

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To: Mayor and Councillors of Richmond Hill

The short answer to whether to call Richmond Hill a "Town" or a "City" is that any municipality with over 200,000 residents and is growing as fast as we are - definitely leans toward a City status.

On the other hand, it does not matter what you call the municipality as the key thing is that the politicians and staff need to listen to the residents and then take steps to make sure there is a great quality of life available including ensuring that the history of Richmond Hill is not lost, and services are updated to meet the growth.

However, if you ask residents for input you should be beholden to act on that input. Recent decisions by Council wherein residents were asked for input in past and policies and plans were developed accordingly were changed without any further input I am referring to the following three items:

(i) The decision to not create a new municipal building/Hall adjacent to the main library. It does cost money but developing a high profile centre is what a mature municipality does. For those who want to use the name "City" - what significant community bordering Yonge Street would avoid developing a long term facility that residents have spent years being asked for input on and have clearly approved development, just because you might have to borrow money? Does not sound city-like planning & decision making to me.

(ii) The decision to cancel the Downtown Plan. Again, you had asked for resident input and it was provided. The plan would have preserved the look of the original downtown area and allowed for reasonable improvements. Revisiting the work done so that perhaps some building might be demolished to accommodate condominiums or other high rise structures is not what the people responded with when asked for input in past. In fact, it is not clear what Council wants to do with the Downtown area now!

(iii) Reducing the funding for support of parks and open spaces. Municipalities have the responsibility to provide amenities for residents and with the development along Yonge Street the need for parks and open spaces is needed. Developers will, if they see there

is demand, build new structures even if they have to pay their share for amenities. In fact, the Parks Plan included resident input that supported the use of funds from development. Even though the politicians have reduced the amount developers will have to pay for a defined time, the demand and need for the amenities will still be there. Does that mean that taxes will be used rather than assessments to developers who are benefitting from the sale of the developed structures?

Neil Zaph