



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2020

Report Number: SRCM.20.03

Department: Office of the City Manager

Division: Office of the Clerk

Subject: SRCM.20.03 – Regional Council Composition

Purpose:

To seek direction in response to the request of the York Region that Richmond Hill Council consent or not to consent to the passing of a by-law to change the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from the City of Vaughan from four (4) to five (5).

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff report SRCM.20.003 be received.
- b) That Council for the City of Richmond Hill [**consent or not consent**] to a bylaw of Regional Council, substantially in the form attached as Attachment A to Staff Report SRCM.20.03, to change the composition of Regional Council by increasing the number of members representing the City of Vaughan from four (4) to five (5).

Contact Person:

Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, Interim City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

At its meeting on February 28, 2020, Council for the Regional Municipality of York (Regional Council) adopted the following resolution:

- “1. That Council add one member representing the City of Vaughan, with no further adjustments to be made to the composition of Council at this time.
2. That Council start the triple majority process as quickly as possible.
3. That the Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the nine local municipalities.”

Section 219(2) of the *Municipal Act, 200*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 (the “Municipal Act”), requires that any changes to the composition and size of Regional Council be approved by a triple majority. To achieve a triple majority, all of the following three criteria must be met:

1. A majority of Regional Council must approve the by-law;
2. A majority of the Councils of the nine local municipalities must pass resolutions consenting to the by-law; and
3. The total number of electors in the local municipalities that have passed consenting resolutions must form a majority of the total number of electors in the Region.

York Region is requesting that all nine local municipalities provide consent to the passage of the draft Regional Council Composition By-law by May 15, 2020.

Regional Council Composition

Attachment B is a copy the Region’s Chief Administrative Officer report dated January 27, 2020 (CAO’s Report) regarding the review of Regional Council Composition. This report was considered at the Region’s Committee of the Whole meeting on February 6, 2020. The above Regional Council resolution was adopted in response to this report.

As shown in Attachment 2 of the CAO’s Report, the average population per elected Member of Regional Council is 54,568. Richmond Hill is shown as being underrepresented on Regional Council with 17% of the Region’s population and 15% representation. Markham is also underrepresented at 29% of the population and 25% representation. Vaughan has the highest rate of underrepresented rate with 28% of the Region’s population and 20% representation. East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville are shown to be overrepresented on Regional Council. Georgina has the highest overrepresentation with 4% of the population and 10% of the representation.

If the proposal to provide one additional Regional Council seat to Vaughan achieves the required triple majority, the new average population per elected Member of Regional Council is 56,731. In this scenario, Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan will continue to be underrepresented. While Richmond Hill and Markham’s representation rates will

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stay the same (i.e. 17% of the population and 15% representation, and 29% of the population and 25% representation, respectively), Vaughan's representation rate will increase from 20% to 25% compared to its 28% share of the Region's population.

Previous Decisions on Regional Council Composition.

Richmond Hill Council last considered a request to consent to changing the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from City of Vaughan from four to five at its meeting on May 8, 2017. Council neither consented nor did it not consent to change when it adopted a resolution to receive the report for information only.

Prior to 2017, Council considered a request to consent to changing the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from City of Vaughan from four to five at its meeting on December 9, 2013. At that meeting, Council neither consented nor did it not consent to change.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no direct financial impacts for City because of any change to the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from the City of Vaughan.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

Consideration of the request that Richmond Hill Council consent or not consent to the passing a by-law to change the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from the City of Vaughan from four to five is not related to the Strategic Plan.

Conclusion:

York Region has requested all nine local municipalities pass resolutions either consenting or not consenting to the passing of a by-law to change the composition and size of Regional Council by increasing the number of members from the City of Vaughan from four to five. Richmond Hill Council can choose to consent or not consent to the passage of the Regions By-law.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment A – Draft Regional Council Composition By-law
- Attachment B – Regional Chief Administrative Officer's report dated January 27, 2020

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.20.03 - Regional Council Composition.docx
Attachments:	- SRCM.20.03 - Attachment A - Draft Composition of Regional Council By-law.doc - SRCM.20.03 - Attachment B - Regional CAO Report dated January 27 2020.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 1, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

MaryAnne Dempster - Apr 1, 2020 - 8:20 AM