

To: Esteemed Council of Richmond Hill

Unfortunately I will not be able to give a live presentation. The vagaries of council meetings, given the vacuous interruptions, spurious points of order, and harassment of the chair, means that even passing the meeting agenda can run upwards of an hour or two. This is something that should take 2 minutes, maybe 3. I do not have a window to wait for an hour or two.

So I have elected to provide this written submission. The downside of this is that, while it forms part of the public record, it is not aired during the council meeting, unless a delegate or councillor decides to read it out.

Given that a number surveys and polls have taken place in the last week, whereby a majority of residents are in support of a byelection, I will let that evidence stand.

My interest is in three potential developments in today's meeting. The first goes to a comment made by Councillor Muench regarding polling residents and businesses regarding a byelection. I assume this was just a basic understanding on his part. Only residents can vote and so only residents should have any say in the decision to vote or voice their opinion regarding a byelection. My hope is that as councillors report, in their usual vagueness, namely 'I heard from' as opposed to what Councillor Chan can report, as to actual numbers, that only residents' opinions are counted.

My second comment goes to the smooth jettison of the option of having a qualified resident be appointed as mayor. The truth of the matter is that there a number of pre-eminently qualified residents with academic, career and council, MPP and MP experience and track record that could step into the Mayor's role for the remainder of this term. In fact, many of them, should they apply, would bring a level of professionalism and acumen absent in some of the councillors currently vying for the position or waiting for the dominoes to fall to elevate themselves to regional councillor. My hat is off to Councillor Muench, well played to close that door so quickly. God forbid we tap some of the talent outside of the current council.

My third comment goes to my interest in today's meeting for the potential of an end run regarding a byelection: namely some backroom deal that ends with a member of council flouncing his derriere into the mayor's chair, a dominoes effect of follow on appointments including regional councillor and then appointing someone from the resident pool to the vacant council seat. Sadly, I will not be surprised at this development but it will be fascinating to watch.

Should we go to a byelection, I would like to propose to council that, to level the financial playing field for candidates, that the expenditure by any candidate be capped at \$50,000.00 This could be passed by council. It would reduce the advantage of those candidates who are basically funded by special interests and developers. Of course the real test for council would be vote to eliminate all developer funding for this byelection and have candidates rely solely on the residents of Richmond Hill to support their

campaign. But I know this will never happen. However listening to the arguments against a 50k cap would be highly entertaining, if only for the unveiling of self-interest.

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