

**From:** Izabel Scovino

**Sent:** Friday, October 8, 2021 9:15 PM

**To:** Office-Mayor Richmondhill <officemayor@richmondhill.ca>; Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>; Greg Beros <greg.beros@richmondhill.ca>; Tom Muench <tom.muench@richmondhill.ca>; Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>; David West <david.west@richmondhill.ca>; Karen Cilevitz <karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca>; Godwin Chan <godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca>; Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

**Subject:** Item 13.2 - Clarification on Regional and Local Councillor Enviro Day Event Exemption

I am writing to express my views and concerns about a decision that is before the Council with respect to the reimbursement of the costs Councillor Perrelli appears to have incurred for his Enviro Days events held in June 2021. I ask that this email become a part of the public record.

It is my understanding that the Member of Council Event Policy (policy) came into effect on May 5, 2021. The policy includes transitional provisions for Council-led events that were in the planning process when the policy came into effect. Among the provisions, an amendment was passed at the May 5, 2021 Special Council Meeting to exempt Councillor Perrelli's Enviro Days from the policy.

Watching and listening to the recorded meeting, Councillor Perrelli's explained that an exemption was needed for the following reasons:

- Although he had received verbal commitment of funding from his sponsors, he did not have written commitments as required under the policy
- The additional required to be raised for the event would exceed the limits established under the policy

It appears Councillor Perrelli now seeks reimbursement for his event because of the exemption from the Policy. As a resident and rate payer of Richmond Hill, I am asking that you vote against reimbursement from City funds and instead redirect Councillor Perrelli to acquire sponsorship to cover the costs of \$139,623.30 incurred for these events based on the following:

- Enviro days is a Council led/Councillor promoted event that was not advertised to the broader community and as such did not go through the proper approval channels
- Councillor Perrelli appears to have sent out written communication to some Richmond Hill residents indicating that the bin replacement event will result in **no tax dollars being spent for the event and confirming that he has raised the money from generous donations from the public.**
- While no formal policy was in place at the time this event was planned, Council Events Guidelines were in effect and at a minimum did provide guidance to Councillors seeking to organize Council-led events

In closing, I believe this latest situation reinforces the important role policies have in promoting accountability and transparency among our elected officials. I commend you all for the efforts to

date to expedite the development and implementation of the Member of Council Events Policy. Like many policies, there may be provisions that under certain circumstances, are subject to interpretation. I encourage you to work through them by following the intent outlined in the policy's guiding principles.

Izabel Scovino

25 Lilley Ct