

From: Lynda Muir

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 3:18 PM

To: Tom Muench <tom.muench@richmondhill.ca>; Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>; Greg Beros <greg.beros@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: Response to Enviro Day Exemption

Please include my email in October 13, 2021 revised agenda. I would like to make it part of the public record.

Richmond Hill Council:

I am a resident of Richmond Hill and I'm writing in regard to agenda item *SRCM.21.1-Clarification on Local and Regional Councillor Enviro Day Event Exemption* which is scheduled to be discussed at the October 13, 2021 Richmond Hill Council meeting. I have concerns about the potential exemption of Councillor Perrelli's Enviro Day Event from the Council Events Guidelines.

Richmond Hill Council members have been required to fund their events through sponsorship and not taxpayer money. Councillor Perrelli promised to fund his Enviro Day Event 100% through sponsorships. In fact, he promised that "no tax dollars will be spent for this event. I have raised the money from generous donations from the public." Why then is he requesting that the City of Richmond Hill exempt him for the cost incurred for blue box and green bin exchanges? If he hasn't received adequate sponsorship funds to cover the cost it is up to Councillor Perrelli to recoup the money on his own. It should not fall upon the taxpayers or the City of Richmond Hill to pay the cost.

If Councillor Perrelli was concerned about the expense to residents of purchasing new recycling boxes and bins, why did he vote against the motion put forth by Councillor West at the November 10, 2020 Council meeting to remove the exchange fee? The amendment stated: "That the proposed fees for replacement of damaged blue box and green bins be removed from the Tariff of Fees." I would think if Councillor Perrelli was really concerned about the expense to residents, he would've gladly voted for the motion in 2020. But he didn't. In fact, he said at the November 2020 meeting that "to keep the cost down we have to make the residents responsible for the care of those [blue boxes and green bins]." He didn't think damaged boxes and bins should be replaced at the city's expense in November 2020. But by June 2021 he was ready to offer a free blue box and green bin exchange at his event. Perhaps he didn't want his Enviro Day Event to be sidelined by this vote, thereby removing the opportunity for Councillor Perrelli to do some politicking by showing residents that he alone among the Councillors is 'for the people of Richmond Hill.' I don't believe the taxpayer should have to pay for such blatant political manoeuvring on the part of any Councillor.

The cost for Councillor Perrelli's bin exchange far exceeds the cost assessed in the staff report for an annual bin exchange (based on exchange rates prior to August 2020 when the free exchange ended). Even with the increased cost for 2022 included, the amount claimed by Councillor Perrelli exceeds the adjusted amount proposed in the staff report by \$69,000. This cost differential would've been eliminated if he had voted for the motion in November 2020. Enviro Day has turned out to be an unnecessarily costly event.

At the Council meeting on September 22, 2021, Councillor Perrelli put forth a motion to permanently eliminate the blue box and green bin replacement fee retroactive to January 1, 2021. Since the replacement service was not resumed until June 21, 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, an amendment was made to change the retroactive date to June 21, 2021. According to the staff report, approximately 1,000 bins were exchanged during this time-frame and refunds were being processed. Council approved the motion. This time Councillor Perrelli voted against his own member motion. Since June 21 is after his

Enviro Event, it would seem that he is more concerned about recovering the cost that he originally promised through “the generous donations from the public” than eliminating the box and bin fee for residents.

The majority of Council members voted against the November 10, 2020 amendment to remove the fee from the Tariff of Fees for replacement of damaged blue box and green bins because of increased expense to the city. Although they voted to approve the motion on September 22, 2021, I would think that they continue to be concerned about rising costs and would be reluctant to release any additional money to cover the Enviro Day Event. According to the staff report, the only funding source available is tax money currently held in reserve.

I am strongly opposed to any tax money being released to cover the cost the Enviro Day Event and would implore Council to vote against a motion to exempt the event from the Council Events Guidelines.

Submitted respectfully,

Lynda Muir

Resident of Richmond Hill since 1986

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