

**From:** Monica Maltman

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:04 AM

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

**Subject:** Resident Input on Enviro Day Event for the October 13th council meeting

Dear council and staff,

I hope this email finds you well. As a Richmond Hill resident, it is distressing to know that there has been ongoing conflict within the council that results in very little progress. I used to have faith in the council and their work. My two cents thoughts are:

1) Please continue to follow the guidelines for events. If you make exceptions, what is the point of even having guidelines? The pandemic is not an excuse to break guidelines. In fact, the pandemic was probably a bad time to spend money on unnecessary things like bins, unless the money can be raised through sponsors. Many local businesses are hurting and if raising money from sponsors could not cover the cost, then that is an issue. This looks like an event based on overpromise and under-deliver.

2) I am one of the residents who did bring in a green bin for exchange because my lid and one side were broken and held together with tape. However, I was under the impression that sponsors were covering the cost and not tax-payer money. If I had known it was the latter, I would have just waited to exchange the bin at my own cost at the recycling centre on Elgin Mills.

As an aside, when I came to exchange my bins, I was surprised by the number of staff who were not wearing a mask. When a staff is expected to approach drivers to gather ID and confirmation, they should have been wearing masks to protect themselves and residents. In May, large groups of people were still ineligible for the Covid vaccine; therefore, a large number of people were unvaccinated. If 2m distancing cannot be observed, at least wear a mask to curb/stop the spread.

3) At the core of this, I would have liked to see that the cost of events was predetermined ahead of time. If it's sponsored, then so be it. If it will use tax-payer money, then please budget the events' costs. Be open about the spending. Syphoning money from the budget to pay for an event is not ok when that money is already slated for other city items, repairs, etc. If residents really want this program, then set up the budget to include this event for next year and onwards. This was a surprise cost and it's not reasonable to expect taxpayers to be happy to pay for it. As well, our property taxes did not increase. I do not see how the council can include this event next year without collecting more money. Realistically, costs will continue to rise, and Richmond Hill is collecting the same. This is another concern I have - can Richmond Hill truly maintain the city without raising property taxes (when services and materials are on the rise)?

4) Lastly, the enviro event raises red flags because the cost of this event is so much more expensive than the average event cost. If the annual blue/green bin program costs are \$31,000, why is this event billed at \$139,623.30! What were the extra costs?

I am a subscriber to CAG (Council Accountability Group) and I find their reporting of council meetings very useful and informative.

Please include this to the revised Agenda for the October 13th meeting, and to become a part of the public record.

All the best,

Monica Maltman

L4B 4V6