

**From:** Adriana Pisano Beaumont

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:00 AM

**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <[clerks@richmondhill.ca](mailto:clerks@richmondhill.ca)>

**Cc:** [daisy.wai@pc.ola.org](mailto:daisy.wai@pc.ola.org); [michael.parsa@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.parsa@pc.ola.org)

**Subject:** Correspondence to council: Special Council Meeting Agenda C#15-22 Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m

Dear Mayor West, Richmond Hill Local and Regional Councillors and City Clerks:

***Re: Correspondence to Richmond Hill Council re: SRCM.22.04 - Inter-governmental Agreement in Principle for Yonge North Subway Extension TOC***

**I begin by requesting that my comments be made public and that they be included on the public agenda posted to the City's website. In addition, please ensure that the Ontario Provincial Government as well as the Members of Provincial Parliament, Daisy Wai and Michael Parsa, who have been elected to represent the interests of the residents of Richmond Hill at the Ontario Legislative Assembly, are also in receipt of my comments.**

On Thursday, April 16 at the end of day, our provincial Conservative government, under the authority of Premier Doug Ford, took yet another unilateral action to further erode democratic process in Ontario by pushing through an eleventh-hour EMZO on the last day before a holiday long weekend, once again proving their intent to move forward without regard for the input of local residents nor the municipal council they elected.

As a resident of Richmond Hill, it is my position that **Richmond Hill Council should release an official position statement condemning the actions of this Provincial Government in advancing this EMZO.** Circumventing the legitimate input of residents and/or duly elected public officials shows unmitigated contempt for the democratic rights of the people and wholly removes their voice from the planning and consultation processes, both of which are enshrined in the Ontario Planning Act.

As we stand in solidarity, condemning autocrats and despots who seek to undermine hard-won democracies in other nations, we must continue to remain vigilant as those same forces appear to be at play right here in Ontario. The descent into autocracy and despotism begins when the voice of the people is silenced. This singularly undemocratic action will be top of mind when voters are called to the polls to make choices about who will ensure that democratic rights remain intact.

And while there may be concerns that the infrastructure as planned falls short of adequate support for a rapidly growing population, it pales in comparison to the mounting concerns about the recent abuse of MZOs by this government and the effect they have had and continue to have on good governance.

As for our elected local representatives, residents expect Richmond Hill Council to join the neighbouring municipalities in voicing opposition to the Provincial Government and this undemocratic plan. Failing to stand in solidarity against this plan will be seen as tacitly approving - and facilitating - the erosion of our participatory democracy, an action that will not soon be forgotten.

We ask that you consider this important issue with the full awareness that the expectations and best-interests of Richmond Hill voters - who have placed their trust in you - rest in your hands.

Respectfully yours,

Adriana Pisano Beaumont

62 Wicker Drive

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Dum spiro, spero.