

From: Cris Sturino

Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 4:12 PM

To: Office-Mayor Richmondhill <officemayor@richmondhill.ca>; Godwin Chan <godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca>; Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Cc: Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>; Tom Muench <tom.muench@richmondhill.ca>; Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>; Raika Sheppard <raika.sheppard@richmondhill.ca>; Karen Cilevitz <karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca>; Greg Beros <greg.beros@richmondhill.ca>;
Subject: Member's Motions - Beros - June 8, 2022

Hello Mayor West, Councillor Chan and Members of Council.

I understand that a motion will be before you at the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, June 8th, 2022 with reference to Regional Councillor Perelli's "Enviro-Day" expense of approximately \$140,000.

As a taxpayer, I already helped to pay for the many advertisements on Facebook, other social media, ads and elsewhere specifically for this event. I paid for the promotion of a program that was independently started and completed by Mr Perrelli without prior approval by Council and without involvement of other Council members. In fact, I felt it smacked of pre-election campaigning on the taxpayers' dime.

On one of those Facebook ads, I specifically asked Mr Perrelli if taxpayers would be paying for this bin replacement promotion, as did many others. And every single time, Mr Perrelli responded that it "won't cost taxpayers a dime". Later, when I challenged Mr Perrelli on another matter, I was blocked from further commenting on his posts. Many other residents experienced the same issue.

As one of thousands of condo owners in Richmond Hill, this program was of no benefit, real or perceived, to any of us. I accept that there are many programs that we help to fund where this might be the case. The difference is that those would go before the entire Council and a debate and discussion would take place weighing the benefits/drawbacks of such a large expense, so that all taxpayers would be represented and considered.

This promotion was started by Mr Perrelli. He took full credit for it as "his" program. He didn't involve any other Members of Council. He assured many of us that it wouldn't "cost us a dime". In short, this was a self-promotion event, not a City of Richmond Hill-sponsored event.

Here we are now, with a motion brought forward by Councillor Beros to forgive the debt owed to our City.

I'm opposed to paying for this program. With the high cost of living, gas prices, labour costs, supply costs, etc., Council will no doubt face challenges and budgetary pressures in the coming months and years. Those costs will have to be passed down to the taxpayers of Richmond Hill. We too are faced with the pressures of higher costs in every other aspect of our lives.

This \$140,000 is not, in my view, a cost that taxpayers should bear. Should the motion be passed, it would set precedent that other Councillors might then take advantage of - with an election looming, this is certainly not a well-advised direction. Where would it end?

I hope to see that Council members oppose and vote against this motion. Mr Perrelli told us that he would bear the cost, that it wouldn't cost us anything, and that's where the responsibility lies for this debt.

Kind regards,
Cris Sturino
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