

Robert P. Salna

64 Industrial Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, L4C 2Y1

December 6, 2022

City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P4
Attn: Mayor and Councilors
Cc: Clerk's Office, clerks@richmondhill.ca

Re: Comments on Report SRCFS.22.040 –Response to September 14, 2022 Member Motion –
Regarding Stormwater Fairness – Meeting Agenda 13.12

Mr. Mayor and Councilors of the City of Richmond Hill,

My name is Robert Salna and I am a long time resident, business owner and property Owner in Richmond Hill and live at 11121 Yonge Street, PH #3.

The City of Richmond Hill has been evolving its stormwater policy since 2013. The current consideration and staff recommendation has a principal of unfairness that I hope Council will consider reflecting and amending before adopting the current proposal.

Below I have outlined some thoughts and concerns for your consideration and I would appreciate if you would either revise your motions or defer the actions for further Council consideration

1. Under Sub section 394 (1) (e) of the Municipal Act, Municipalities are prohibited to charge fees and the act states

“No fee or charge that is based on, is in respect of, or is computed by reference to,
(e) the generation, exploitation, extraction, harvesting, processing, renewal or transportation of a natural resource”

I would submit to you the “spirit” of the Municipal Act remains that those like myself who receive no servicing of stormwater but are being charged for the service is unfair and outside of the parameters that Municipalities should consider.

2. As I have several properties including 107 North Lake Road whereby,
 1. I have invested 100% of the stormwater infrastructure,
 2. Fully maintain the sewer,
 3. Manage the sewer,
 4. Have received letters and correspondence from the City over the years to assure that I am responsible for the sewer.

I feel the current motion unjustly penalizes property owners that have been partnering with the City on Stormwater management and THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD BE COMPENSATED or at the very least be EXEMPTED from this revised policy.

As such The City is now being disingenuous and double tax dipping.

3. Property Owners that do not receive Stormwater services should not be taxed for services they Don't receive. This tax is not like a school board tax that is universal across the board. This tax is simply unfair and unjust.
4. The current proposal of capping at 10 acres still is a 10 times tax increase from 2021. This is unfair and unreasonable and a community meeting should be discussed of this taxation approach at the very least.
5. As the Province has just tabled Bill 23, which has far reaching changes to municipalities, this is a time where public / private / government relationships should be rethought. The proposal in front of you demonstrates "punitive" actions which I don't believe the City intends.

Sincerely,

Robert Salna