

**From:**

**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:06 AM

**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>; David West <david.west@richmondhill.ca>; Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Godwin Chan <godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca>; Carol Davidson <carol.davidson@richmondhill.ca>; Scott Thompson <scott.thompson@richmondhill.ca>; Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>; Simon Cui <simon.cui@richmondhill.ca>; Karen Cilevitz <karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca>; Michael Shiu <michael.shiu@richmondhill.ca>

**Cc:**

**Subject:** City Finances and Development: Call for Meaningful Dialogue

**Importance:** High

Clerk,

Please enclose this email, along with the attachment, as the submission for the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Budget COW meeting on Item 4.1. Thanks

Mayor West and the Public,

Upon reviewing the key figures of the 2024 budget, it has become evident to me, even without delving into the details, that they continue along the same trajectory as in the past, devoid of any improvement. **All the municipal revenue increases and the tax burden on residents that we have witnessed over the past decade have been utilized solely to mitigate operational inefficiencies. However, they remain inadequate. As a result, this situation has necessitated substantial reductions in capital investment, putting our city's future at risk in the pursuit of budgetary balance.**

I urge everyone to take 5 minutes to read the attached abstract of the research report titled **"Comparative Study of Municipal Operating Performance: A Case Study of Richmond Hill and Similar Municipalities."** By doing so, you can form your own conclusions about Richmond Hill's operational performance and the rationality of its budget. Specifically, please refer to Table 1 on page 5, which illustrates the significant revenue savings that could be realized if the city were to maintain its operating performance from the 2009-2011 period, potentially exceeding the impact of Bill 23.

My question to the council members is whether any of you have the ability to independently analyze the submitted budget and uncover the trends and truths hidden within the extensive data. This situation parallels that of the Yonge/16th KDA plan – can any council member identify its discrepancies and flaws without the assistance of a comprehensive third-party analysis?

**If the council is open to it, let's organize a meaningful meeting where all stakeholders can engage in constructive dialogue by asking questions, offering suggestions, advocating for their viewpoints, and collaboratively pursuing the truth and avenues for enhancement.**

Otherwise, there is a risk that the budget meeting could be perceived as a mere formality, potentially leading to public misperception once more.

Thank you.  
John Li

P.S. Most of the council members were provided with the full research report for review six months ago.