



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting:	Committee of the Whole Meeting
Meeting Date:	March 19, 2025
Subject/Title:	Suspend City of Richmond Hill Use of the X (Twitter) Platform
Submitted by:	Councillor Carol Davidson

Whereas the City of Richmond Hill is committed to ensuring its communications are conducted on platforms that uphold its core values of respect, inclusivity, integrity, and responsible communication; and

Whereas X Corp., under the ownership of Elon Musk, has demonstrated actions and policies that no longer align with these values; and

Whereas Canadian municipalities use X to share public service announcements, emergency alerts, and government updates; and

Whereas Elon Musk has privileged access to U.S. government files, questions could arise about whether X's internal data is secure and whether municipal communications could be subject to monitoring or influence; and

Whereas if X's infrastructure is linked to U.S. intelligence networks, there is a risk that municipal data could be accessed, stored, or analyzed outside of Canada, raising transparency and security concerns; and

Whereas while there is no direct evidence that Musk's access to U.S. government files impacts the City of Richmond Hills' data, the possibility of increased U.S. influence over X could raise concerns about transparency, security, and content control; and

Whereas several Canadian municipalities, the Richmond Hill Public Library, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada, have already suspended their X accounts and transitioned to alternative platforms.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That staff be directed to prepare a report for Council on the suspension of all official City accounts, including Fire and Emergency Services, from X Corp. platforms and the transition to alternative platforms that align with the City's values and communication needs. The report should include:
 - o A review of alternative platforms that prioritize accessibility, transparency, and public engagement.

- A timeline for transitioning while ensuring continued communication with residents.
 - A public engagement strategy to inform residents and encourage them to follow the City on new platforms.
 - Data on current users and engagement.
 - An overview of actions taken by other municipalities.
2. That staff present the report, including recommendations and an implementation timeline, to Council at the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Carol Davidson

Seconded by: