

From: Michael Taggart

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:18 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Cc: Office-Mayor Richmondhill <officemayor@richmondhill.ca>; Godwin Chan <godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca>; Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@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>

Subject: Concerns Regarding Cat Licensing Bylaw

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

At a time when many residents are struggling with affordability, the proposed cat licensing bylaw would require owners to spend approximately \$340 over the lifetime of their pet.

This system unfairly penalizes responsible pet owners who comply, while the majority who choose not to license their cats remain unaffected. Additionally, enforcing this bylaw would divert valuable staff resources that could be better used to improve community safety.

There is also a risk that this policy could discourage some residents from reclaiming their cats from municipal shelters, especially those who may already perceive cats as "disposable pets." Furthermore, the bylaw as written fails to account for the impact on rescue organizations, leaving them vulnerable to unintended consequences.

I believe a more effective approach would be through education and community outreach rather than mandatory licensing. I urge council to consider alternative solutions that better serve both residents and animal welfare.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Taggart