

From: cathy nikolaidis

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:16 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Subject: Changes to Member of Council Events policy

I am writing to express my disagreement with the proposed SRCS.25.11 which would eliminate Member of Council Events such as the Sustainability Speakers Series, Spring Fair, Family Day Skate, the Mayor's Maple Syrup Festival, Ward 2 Leisure Skate & Eco Family Fest and Ward 5 Music Festivals.

I fully support stronger oversight and accountability; however, I am concerned that removing Council-led events diminishes the City's capacity to support local community building efforts. These events:

- Cost the City very little - they're fully funded by sponsorships and volunteers
- Support local charities and not-for-profits by donating surplus proceeds to community causes. (360 Kids, the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank)
- Provide free or low-cost access for grassroots and youth organizations that can't afford booth fees at City events and thereby, increase access, variety and inclusivity.
- Promote local engagement, diversity, and trust, by giving residents direct access to their Councillors.
- Connect residents to local community resources: York Region Food Network and their Affordable Fresh Food Market
- Celebrate local heritage - the Spring Fair recognized York Region Paramedics 25th anniversary of service to our community. A special exhibit of the David Dunlop Observatory, a National Historic Site of Canada, also acknowledged the 90th anniversary.
- Support mental well being through free accessible family-oriented entertainment and physical activities - Music Festivals, Family Leisure Skates, Spring Fair. Mayor's Maple Syrup Festival
- Enhance environmental and sustainability awareness in Richmond Hill - Sustainability Speakers Series; Eco Family Fest

The high booth fees at City events exclude many small grassroots organizations that aren't able to pay the fees. Through Councillor-led Events, residents are introduced to local neighborhood initiatives in a way that larger City events don't allow.

At the Eco-Family Fest and Sustainability Speaker Series, the Plant Based Treaty group connected with many local residents who supported the Plant Based Treaty. The City has since passed a motion to support the Plant Based Treaty which aligns with the City's climate goals.

As the City of Richmond Hill continues to grow, let us not lose our capacity to maintain a closer knit community through these Councillor-led events.

I respectfully ask Council to retain the Member of Council Events Policy. The benefits to small community organizations and our diverse community are invaluable.

Best,

Cathy Nikolaidis

Richmond Hill resident