

From: Jaclyn Wong

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:26 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Subject: Re: Comments for Councillor Karen Cilevitz's Motion on Apr. 1

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jaclyn Wong, and my family and I have lived in Richmond Hill for almost 35 years. My siblings and I went to school in Richmond Hill and I now work as a teacher in Richmond Hill and Markham with the York Region District School Board. I believe I have every right to speak up as a citizen of Richmond Hill.

I have the following comments to add to Councillor Karen Cilevitz's Motion, regarding the Request to Establish a Multi-Level Task Force to Combat Antisemitic Hate and Violence:

As someone who strongly believes in equity and justice, and teaches on the basis of such values, it is imperative that we stop all forms of hate so that we can all live peacefully with one another. I do believe in ending anti-semitism but this task force must also include addressing anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia in its plans and funding. All three forms of hate must be fought side by side. It is very clear in the news, the media, and research that there has been harm done on both Palestinian and Jewish communities. However, I would argue that the harm is disproportionately affecting Palestinians and Muslims. My colleagues at the National Council of Canadian Muslims can attest to this. Canadian Holocaust survivor Dr. Gabor Maté can also confirm this disproportional and genocidal harm towards Palestinians and Muslims.

When we only address anti-Semitism, you are then silencing Palestinian and Muslim students and families in Richmond Hill, which is inequitable and quite frankly, oppressive. I have interacted with many students, parents and school staff who feel they cannot speak up because they are afraid of being made fun of or that they would lose their jobs. Where is the task force to support these folks?

If this task force does not consider Palestinian and Muslim families living in Richmond Hill, I will be connecting with my colleagues at the National Council of Canadian Muslims, as well as the Coalition for Palestinian Students and Families - York Region.

Please confirm that you have received this message, as well as let me know how my comments have been verbally shared. I would like to know the time at which my comments have been shared, as well as documentation of proof that it has been shared at the Committee of the Whole Meeting tomorrow (April 1st). I unfortunately cannot attend, as I will be teaching that morning.

Regards,

Jaclyn