



STEVEN DEL DUCA
MAYOR

DATE

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

In light of the tragic events suffered by our citizens on December 18, 2022 at the Bellaria Towers, when residents of a condominium building were killed in their homes by a fellow resident, the City of Vaughan continues engaging residents suffering mental health impacts. We are committed to helping contribute to the long-term recovery from the shootings.

As a result, Vaughan City Council passed a resolution on February 22, 2023, to respectfully ask that the Government of Canada consider necessary amendments to the Firearms Act to allow for an expedited process (within thirty days or less of receiving a request from police to revoke a firearms license) to revoke a firearm license from any gun owner accused of threatening another resident of a condominium or members of a Condominium Board. The resolution further asks the Ontario government to change the Ontario Courts of Justice Act to allow for expedited hearings (within 30 days or less) regarding motions for sanctions against residents of a condominium alleged to have made physical threats to other residents of the condominium or members of the condominium board. These changes are intended to protect our citizens from further harm or loss of life.

As we look ahead, community safety remains top-of-mind for the people of Vaughan. As a result, community safety meetings are taking place in the City's five wards. These meetings will help further inform the actions of a new City of Vaughan Community Safety Advisory Committee recently established. In addition, as the City is moving ahead with its new 2022-2026 Term of Council Strategic Plan, safeguarding the well-being of our residents and partnering with critical stakeholders like other governments are informing this vital strategy and our city-building priorities.

Finally, I welcome news that Justice Minister Lametti announced targeted reforms to the Criminal Code to update Canada's bail system. This effort is consistent with calls by Canada's Premiers and Territorial Leaders and Ontario's Big City Mayors. In addition, I wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau, asking the federal government to urgently modernize Canada's bail system to ensure dangerous offenders remain off our streets. The Prime Minister responded to my letter, noting the importance of having effective criminal laws that keep Canadians safe. Again, Minister Lametti's announcement is a critical step forward.

Community safety is an issue of great importance to the residents of Vaughan. I will continue to work with all government levels and stakeholders to keep residents, neighbours, and our entire city safe and secure. I attach for your reference a copy of Council's February 22, 2023 Member's Resolution, as passed.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca
Mayor, City of Vaughan

Encl. February 22, 2023, Member's Resolution

CC: Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General
Vaughan Council
Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO
City of Vaughan Senior Leadership Team—Executive