

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

TITLE: Resolution regarding the Province of Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force

FROM:

Councillor Alan Shefman
Councillor Marilyn Iafrate

Whereas, the City of Vaughan recognizes the urgency of developing a comprehensive province-wide policy to address the urgent issue of affordability of housing; and

Whereas, the City has embarked on developing its own policy on affordable housing; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan has an Official Plan that establishes a desired urban structure to guide its land uses throughout the city; and

Whereas, the City undertakes regular reviews of its Official Plan, as required by the Planning Act, to ensure land use decisions are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and reflective of the community visions; and

Whereas, the City's Official Plan encourages significant growth to the urban growth Centre, mobility hubs and major transit station areas to take advantage of mass transit services and protect the character of established residential areas; and

Whereas, the City's Official Plan designates sufficient lands to meet its future growth needs based on provincial growth forecasts and serves as a critical policy document to coordinate between infrastructure and growth; and

Whereas, the City's Official Plan is developed and updated based on technical studies and thorough extensive community and stakeholder consultations as required by the Planning Act; and

Whereas, the province has established a Housing Affordability Task Force, without municipal representation, that has released 55 recommendations in its draft report on January 25, 2022, that could significantly impact land use planning at municipal level; and

Whereas, there are many factors that can influence housing affordability, e.g. lack of Provincial infrastructure investment, immigration policy, backlog of cases at OLT, labour and material costs, income and inflation, as well as complex and sometimes conflicting Provincial policies; and

Whereas, many of the recommendations of the Housing Affordability Task Force would result in both local planning decisions being fundamentally undermined and download the burdens of the housing crisis to municipalities and their residents to the point that the quality of life of our residents would be seriously threatened.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the City of Vaughan support all efforts at all levels of government to increase housing supply that is fair to both existing and future residents; and
2. THAT the City of Vaughan be fully committed to working with all levels of government to develop an effective strategy to provide affordable housing; and
3. THAT the City of Vaughan express its grave concerns to the local MPPs and the Province of Ontario about the Housing Affordability Task Force report for lack of municipal involvement and consultation; and
4. THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to conduct, with all due haste, a thorough consultation with municipalities and appropriate interested parties prior to developing and releasing any policy based on the Housing Affordability Task Force recommendations; and
5. THAT as a first step in the process of developing a policy on housing affordability, that a fulsome and comprehensive definition of “affordable housing” be developed in consultation with municipalities and other interested parties; and
6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of the Liberal and Green Party, all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; the Large Urban Mayors’ Caucus of Ontario, the Small Urban GTHA Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario; and

7. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for consideration.

Councillor Alan Shefman, Ward 5 – Thornhill

Councillor Marilyn Iafrate, Ward 1