

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, December 03, 2024

**TITLE: CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FIX THE
BROKEN CATCH-AND-RELEASE BAIL SYSTEM**

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, safeguarding Vaughan's quality of life by stopping reckless, illegal behaviour and the spread of criminality, remains a critical city-building priority for Vaughan Council and municipalities across Canada, and requires a renewed call-to-action of ideas, initiatives and plans rooted in the principles of safety, alertness, focus and effectiveness; and

Whereas, Vaughan Council knows community safety is fundamental to city-building and has made this issue a pillar of the 2022-2026 Term of Council Strategic Plan; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan's 2022 Citizen Satisfaction Survey identifies public safety as a leading issue for residents (a jump to 14 per cent of respondents from only 5 per cent in 2018); and

Whereas, the Government of Ontario has called on the federal government to immediately adopt measures to enhance public safety through a number of mechanisms, including (but not limited to), restoring mandatory sentences for serious crimes, removing bail availability for offenders charged with select crimes (including carjackings and home invasions), mandating three-strike rules requiring pre-trial detention for repeat offenders, and bringing back restrictions on who can receive conditional sentences; and

Whereas, as part of Vaughan's ongoing public safety efforts, in January 2023, Mayor Del Duca also wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau calling on the federal government to urgently modernize Canada's bail system to ensure that dangerous offenders are kept

off streets from committing crimes ranging from gun violence to home break-ins and auto thefts; and

Whereas, in September 2024, Mayor Del Duca met with Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General Arif Virani, and expressed the need for the immediate adoption of measures to enhance public safety through bail reform; and

Whereas, crimes committed by offenders who are out on bail as a result of the broken catch-and-release bail system continue to negatively impact Vaughan residents, with one such instance occurring as recently as November 22, 2024, during a violent home invasion in the Ventura Way and Beverley Glen Boulevard area. Several of the offenders in this attack were out on bail while committing serious violent crimes in our community; and

Whereas, Mayor Del Duca has consistently supported the York Regional Police (YRP) through advocacy for increased funding to support front-line officers to keep Vaughan safe and tackle crime, including echoes most recently through Mayor Del Duca's deputation to the York Region Police Services Board, and the opening of the YRP Substations in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and Kleinburg.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Mayor Del Duca send a letter on behalf of the City of Vaughan to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and the Minister of Public Safety, copied to all York Region Mayors, the Chair of York Region, and all York Region Members of Parliament, calling on the federal government to urgently amend the Criminal Code by introducing concrete changes to tighten bail legislation to keep criminals behind bars and off our city's streets.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

This Member's Resolution has no financial impacts.

Attachment

1. Letter from Mayor Del Duca to Prime Minister Trudeau RE: Community Safety (January 31, 2023).