

**COMMUNICATION – C15
Council – May 27, 2020
Committee of the Whole
Report No. 20, Item 17**

Rose and Frank Troina
[REDACTED] Kilmuir Gate
Woodbridge, ON
[REDACTED]
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May 26, 2020

Dear Todd Coles,
City Clerk
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

We are deeply concerned to hear that Vaughan councillors are planning to vote on an Indemnification By-law on Wednesday that would in effect leave taxpayers like ourselves financially responsible to pay for a politician's legal fees over an ethics complaint, even if a politician is found to be in the wrong. It is deplorable and an affront to our democracy that such a by-law be even considered in the midst of this health crisis that we are experiencing. The focus of our City council should be the health and safety of its citizens during this pandemic. The optics of ramming this by-law through council at this time is extremely questionable. This by-law would in effect give immunity to any wrong doing. Is it really necessary? Council members already have legal guidance at City Hall that can direct them in avoiding any faux pas they may inadvertently commit in the future. This by-law financially protects members of council, members of local boards and staff against any legal proceedings against them. The hard-working taxpayers of Vaughan need not be burdened financially by this proposed, blatantly self-serving piece of legislation. This by-law not only clears them of any financial responsibility for their actions and/or inactions but also releases the councillors from their accountability. This by-law would give City councillors carte blanche, to do as they see fit with no repercussions. Where is the transparency? Where is the integrity?

Why is it that this issue is being dealt with now while our communities are dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic? Many people are losing their jobs and the financial security of people in our community is at risk right now. Is it the wish of the Council to quietly vote this Indemnification By-law through? For the City to even consider such a bylaw, that protects and is financially beneficial to the elected members of council, Board Members, staff, at this time, is very insulting to the community and undermines the democratic process of our system. These important issues should be discussed and voted on when there is a sense of normalcy and when ordinary citizens are able to return and participate in the city chambers. Again, we find the timing of this particular vote very disturbing and counterproductive to the democratic process.

Sincerely,

Rose and Frank Troina