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Communication
CW (WS) – May 5, 2021
Item(s) # - 2

From: [Bellisario, Adelina](mailto:Adelina.Bellisario@vaughan.ca)
To: [Bellisario, Adelina](mailto:Adelina.Bellisario@vaughan.ca)
Subject: FW: [External] May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2) Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation
Date: May-04-21 8:18:53 AM

From: Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:30 PM
To: Council@vaughan.ca; Coles, Todd <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2) Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation

Vaughan City Council
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON
L6A 1T1

May 3, 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

Mayor and Councillors,

We are asking Vaughan Council to consider making decisions that will ensure effective local and regional representation is achieved with the addition of a new regional councillor next term. No analysis or studies has been completed considering how this change to Council's composition will alter local representation and decision-making. Presently the Ward Boundary Review excludes regional councillors.

We are also asking Council go with option 1 in the 2020/2021 Ward Boundary Review. We are also asking that future Ward Boundary Reviews include regional councillors. In short, Vaughan's regional councillors have no clear division of responsibility, they are elected at large with little accountability to any community or area of Vaughan. They often support controversial decisions in the presence of strong public opposition. A fourth regional councillor has been added during a global pandemic without any public consultation. Vaughan taxpayers will pay for another regional councillor but were never consulted or asked. When an opportunity came before Vaughan Council to provide direction to staff regional representation was excluded.

Vaughan's Council composition is always compared to Markham who has five regional Council members. Why do we never compare our local council representation to Markham? Markham has eight local councilors representing 350,000 residents, whereas Vaughan has only five local councillors representing 335,000 residents.

To restore balance between local and regional representation that does not include the addition of another local councillor there may be two options.

- 1. Regional councillors are eliminated from Vaughan Council, thereby reducing Vaughan Council to six (6) members the Mayor and five (5) local councillors; or,**
- 2. Regional councillors are elected by ward and accountable to wards, they would no longer be elected at large.**

There is clearly frustration among residents with regional representation as documented in the consultant's report^[1]. Excluding regional councillors from the ongoing review has only aggravated this sentiment, combined with the recent upper and lower tier council decisions surrounding the Highway. Vaughan residents have always been told we need another Regional Councillor to increase Vaughan's regional representation, but the reality is that each time an additional regional councillor has been added Vaughan's local representation has eroded. There is no optimal solution to achieve effective representation, but it certainly will never be achieved if only half of Council's voting members are included in the scope of the Ward Boundary Review. **Vaughan Council's composition is changing, regional representation has increased at the expense of local representation and the public was only consulted about moving lines on a map. This is not democratic or fair to Vaughan Citizens.**

Please take the time to consider what is in the best interests of Vaughan citizens to ensure local and regional representation is balanced, effective and accountable.

Best,

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[1] Vaughan Council Agenda Item 5(2), Attachment 1: Ward Boundry Review, pg 40. See: <https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=67003>

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