

RECEIVED
March 5, 2021

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: Rahul Mehta [REDACTED]
Sent: March 5, 2021 4:39 PM
To: ZZG-RegionalClerk <zzg-regionalclerk@peelregion.ca>; ZZG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>
Subject: Resident comment for Regional Council meeting

CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Hello staff and member of Regional Council,

Please find my comments below to be added to the record for the March 11th meeting of Regional Council, regarding items 22.3 and 22.4 (Notices of Motion).

Item 22.3: I am strongly opposed to this Motion, which allows for up to two additional garbage bags without tags to be placed out for collection on the bi-weekly schedule from March-May 2021. The "garbage-tag exemption days" have always been an unusual policy within our waste management plan, completely opposed to all Municipal and Regional environmental, sustainability and specifically waste management (waste diversion) policies, and the targets embedded within them. These exemptions allow for additional, and in previous years at times unlimited, garbage bags to be placed curbside for collection, without any tags. By not requiring tags, the Region is waiving a fee designed to incentivize less garbage produced, as well as a source of Regional revenue that helps cover a portion of waste management costs. This exemption simply makes no sense - why are we incentivizing the public to produce **more garbage**? What exactly is the intention behind this measure other than to increase pollution, put additional burden on landfills, and perpetuate a culture of fast fashion, plastic packaging and excessive purchase of goods made of non-recyclable or non-compostable materials? This exemption is actually a cost to all taxpayers, with a legacy impact on our environment, and I am confused how this is allowed to continue at all. Not only am I strongly opposed to this Motion, I request that any Councillor who wishes to show leadership will bring forward an opposing Motion banning/removing all "garbage exemption days", in support of our waste diversion targets, local and regional climate action plans and as a zero-cost tool to further incentivize positive behaviour change in the population. If members wish to respond by saying that without exemptions "there will be more illegal dumping" I would like to see hard numbers on how much illegal dumping increases during the majority of the year, when there is already no "garbage exemption" taking place. Let's put facts before personal preferences to increase garbage production in our neighbourhoods... I see garbage piling up in our local water courses, woodlots, forests, and even clinging to trees. No matter how many clean-ups kids, youth and young adults like myself do, the garbage just keeps on coming. Will the generations in front of me - members of this Council - work to address their mistakes in waste management in the past and present, for a cleaner future? Ultimately this is a question of leadership, environmental stewardship, and the seriousness with which we take our "climate emergency", which members recently supported, unanimously. It's time for our actions to reflect our words, on the path to a zero waste future.

Item 22.4: I would like to thank Councillors Fonseca and Santos for putting forward this excellent Motion which I fully support. My support for this Motion comes both as a Mississauga resident, active cyclist (across the Region of Peel) and Program Worker for the Community Cycling Project (located in Meadowvale and funded by the Region of Peel). This Motion underscores the significant work (and crucial investment) needed for us to achieve and then exceed our modal split targets (ideally before

2050), building a cycling network that truly allows for commuting and creating high-order transit corridors (within existing street ROW), all to reduce the need to move by using a car, opening up more space for these active and efficient modes of travel, as well as greener streets. I urge all members to support this Motion and then put forward additional actions in the months ahead to accelerate our build-out of our respective municipal cycling networks. I urge this Council to consider an accelerated implementation of temporary and permanent bike lanes, weekend street closures, bikeshare pilot projects and high-quality bike parking and urban art. Actions in [Toronto](#), [Montreal](#) and [Ottawa](#) are true sources of inspiration that this Council should consider on how we (re)connect residents to the outdoors and moving by more sustainable means at a large scale. I also encourage the creation of grants for AT community projects to empower small interventions and events at the neighbourhood level that further animate our diverse communities to celebrate being active outdoors. Thank you and I look forward to the adoption of this Motion as another step towards Vision Zero and making active travel the easy choice for most residents to live, work and play.

--

Sincerely,

--

Rahul Mehta

Resident, Ward 8, Mississauga

Founder, Sustainable Mississauga