

Bonsignore, Connie

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Communication
Council - Mar 19/13
Item: 19 / Ppt 9

From: Antony Niro P.Eng. <antony.niro@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 12:09 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Schulte, Deb; DeFrancesca, Rosanna; Rosati, Gino; Shefman, Alan; Racco, Sandra; Di Biase, Michael; Palermo, Angela; Carella, Tony; Iafrate, Marilyn
Cc: Abrams, Jeffrey; Tim Kelly; Ron Landes
Subject: Council Meeting - March 19, 2013 - Item 1 Report No. 9 of the Committee of the Whole - Item 19 Petition Re: Ward Boundaries

Mayor and Members of Vaughan Council.

I have read the Clerks department report, communication C15 on "Petition Re: Ward Boundaries", and agree with the recommendation that consideration of the options be referred to a future Committee of the Whole (Working Session).

As stated in the report, the Clerk's department requires further time to review Dr. Ron Landes report "Public Ward Boundary Review, Vaughan, Ontario 2012-2013". As stated on deputation, Dr. Landes and myself are available to the Clerk's department and members of Council to discuss and provide clarification either by conference call or in person when necessary.

Let me bring attention to a point not covered in the Clerks report. The report submitted written by Dr. Landes brings forward a very important issue. The current structure of the Regional Councillors being "elected-at-large" is open to a potential constitutional challenge in relation to the Canadian Charter of Rights and the Carter Case. It is recommended in the report to elect Regional Councillors on a Ward basis, a 6 Ward system provides for regional councillors to be elected on a two-ward constituency structure. This would provide three advantages, first, regional councillors could help ward councillors with the workload, second, to focus regional councillors on more local concerns, third, would help offset the preponderance of the larger populated areas of Vaughan selecting the regional councillors.

In conclusion, the public's reception at the door for the petition to increase representation of the countryside community has been exceptional. The overwhelming majority of residents appreciate the opportunity to speak to someone about their concerns of representation at the city. For that reason, I am continuing to petition communities in the proposed Ward 6 and a joining communities and will continue to communicate to council and the Clerk's department on my progress.

-Antony.

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