

Urban Nature Store
200 Marycroft Ave. # 22
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289-474-5282

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COMMUNICATION
CW (WORKING SESSION)
January 21/14
ITEM - 1

January 20, 2014

Dear: Mayor, and City Council, City Of Vaughan

RE: Committee of the Whole - January 21, 2014 Working Session
Vaughan Animal Services By-Law Review and Communications Strategy
Ban on Feeding Wild Birds?

I am writing to you as the owner of Urban Nature Store in Woodbridge in regards to the report prepared by Vaughan Animal Services - Animal Control By-Law. A number of our customers have raised concerns about the recommended amendments to the Animal Control By-Law, which could be interpreted to be a complete ban on the feeding of wild birds.

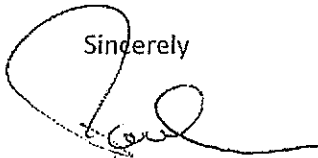
Overall we are strongly supportive of the City's efforts to enhance the treatment and care of dogs and cats in the City of Vaughan. Our concern focuses solely on the provisions which would "prohibit the feeding of wildlife". We believe that any by-law wording needs to be clarified to confirm that this by-law would not ban residents of Vaughan from feeding wild birds. This is an activity undertaken responsibly by many homeowners and it is an activity which is of vital importance to the wild bird population.

Due to construction and development, many of the natural habitats and food sources of wild birds have been destroyed. Human-assisted feeding of wild birds is vital to maintaining our natural bird population. Without our help, the wild bird population would decline significantly.

We certainly do not believe that it is the wish of City Council to ban residents from feeding wild birds; however, we feel that the by-law wording needs more clarity to confirm that the by-law focuses only on animals and not birds. If there are issues of "irresponsible" bird feeding that are causing localized nuisances, then we would be pleased to work with City Council to assist with approaches to deal with isolated situations.

I thank you for your assistance in clarifying this issue.

Sincerely



Paul Oliver
Dir 416-987-5824
Urban Nature Store

From: Abrams, Jeffrey
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:26 PM
To: Bellisario, Adelina
Subject: FW: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?
Attachments: Vaughan Council - Jan 20 2014.pdf; Vaughan Council - Jan 20 2014.pdf

fyi

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From: Ciafardoni, Joy
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey
Subject: FW: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?

From: Paul Oliver [<mailto:paul@urbannaturestore.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Ciafardoni, Joy
Subject: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?

Dear Mayor, please find attached a letter in regards to the January 21 Committee of the Whole - Animal Services Report. While supportive of the report and the approach, we are very concerned that it could have the unintended impact of banning all bird feeders in the City of Vaughan.

We ask that you please consider our concerns prior to the morning meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Paul Oliver