

From: David Smith
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 6:58 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant Property Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk's Office,

Would you kindly register my support for the motion:

1. *That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.*

I believe that this comes up for a Council Vote on Wednesday (July 12th) and would be grateful if you would share my support with council members.

Thank you.

SWABS  (Stay Well And Be Safe)



David Smith
President, Ward 4 South-East Residents' Association

From: Heather Davidson
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:11 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: [SUSPECTED]Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to let you know that, as a resident of the City of Markham and a member of the Ward4SE Residents Association, I support this motion :

That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Yours truly,

Heather Davidson

Markham

From: Naxin Pan
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Support the motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

My name is Naxin Pan. I live at ■■■ Squire Baker's Lane Markham L3P 3G9.

I support the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

We need affordable houses. Young people need affordable houses. Vacant houses are not for the people who need it. It is for the greedy riches.

Naxin Pan

From: BEVERLY O HARA
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:39 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the motion that the Vacancy Tax Proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021

Beverly O'Hara

Markham

From: Marilyn Hotmail
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:22 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Proposed Tax on Vacant Homes

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband Bob and I would like to voice our support for the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal **be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council** in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

Bob & Marilyn Tufford

Markham, ON L3P 1Z1

From: Brian Mackenzie
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to lend my support to the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal should be sent back to staff for further study and then they should report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

Thank you, Brian Mackenzie

Brian Mackenzie

From: Larkin Hinder
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern: I support the motion that the vacancy tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to council in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Yours truly,

Larkin Hinder

From: Norma Luks
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 6:53 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We recommend that the vacancy tax action be sent back to council for further consideration.

Tom and Norma Luks

From: Paul Naish

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:21 AM

To: Clerks Public

Subject: Re: motion that will be discussed on Wednesday July 14th at Council 1pm

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

With respect to the the motion below that was posted by Karen Rea, I fully support the investigation of options of a vacancy tax on residential units. We need to remove speculation and leveraged investment from the housing market to ensure space is available for those who need housing.

Whereas housing prices have seen a significant increase in the past couple of years; and

Whereas residents, especially young residents are experiencing difficulty entering the housing market due to a lack of affordable homes; and

Whereas there has been an increase in buyers purchasing properties and upon closing, many of these homes remain unoccupied; and

Whereas some absentee homeowners are not maintaining their properties; and

Whereas implementing a residential vacant unit tax will encourage homeowners to maintain, occupy or rent their properties which will help increase the housing supply; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced a new tax authority on vacant homes that will give Toronto and other interested municipalities the power to impose such a tax to encourage owners to sell or rent such spaces;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

[Paul Naish](#)

From: contactclive
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vancancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

We hereby confirm that we support the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

Yours truly,

Beverley Baird
Clive Moorman
Markham Ontario

From: ralph & liz brown
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:40 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Re: Vacant housing tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I believe there is an item on the agenda for councillors on Wednesday to consider a vacant housing tax. Could you please share that in my view a vacant housing tax should be imposed.

Vacant housing has been a problem over the years and continues to be a concern on my street and in my area. Speculators should pay a tax for using housing as investment and leaving it unoccupied.

Vacant housing takes away from the community.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Brown

From: Shelley Payne-Renaud
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Home tax - further study required

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I understand the Province of Ontario has announced a new tax authority on vacant homes that will give Toronto and other interested municipalities the power to impose such a tax to encourage owners to sell or rent such spaces and not leave them vacant and poorly looked after and as such I want to be sure we thoroughly investigate the options for imposing a vacant home tax and have the staff report back to Council in the 4th Quarter of 2021. I think this is a tax that does need to be imposed as I see too many places that appear vacant and their properties are not being maintained.

Thank you

From: Donna Dougan
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I think this is a great idea. It needs to be substantial enough to encourage them to consider renting out their home rather than it being unoccupied. Hopefully the renters will keep the property tidy of weeds etc. as an additional benefit. The extra tax money could be used to build more affordable housing or provide subsidies to those who want to rent nicer places but aren't able to afford it.

Donna Dougan

Sent from my iPhone

From: Brenda Swenor
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:58 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Thank you!
Brenda Swenor

Member Ward 4 South-East Residents' Association

Sent from my iPhone

From: J R
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning

This note is express my **support** for the motion that the Vacancy Tax Proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to City Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

Andres Rojas

From: Dan Johnstone
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:11 PM
To: Clerks Public
Cc: David Smith
Subject: Vacancy tax proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,
Please be advised that I support the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

Dan Johnstone
Markham Resident

From: Scott Mustard
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Clerks Public
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham
Subject: empty housing tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Markham

I support that we should put a tax that is aligned with Toronto , the details are important , the when's and how's.

Scott

“Whereas housing prices have seen a significant increase in the past couple of years; and

Whereas residents, especially young residents are experiencing difficulty entering the housing market due to a lack of affordable homes; and

Whereas there has been an increase in buyers purchasing properties and upon closing, many of these homes remain unoccupied; and

Whereas some absentee homeowners are not maintaining their properties; and

Whereas implementing a residential vacant unit tax will encourage homeowners to maintain, occupy or rent their properties which will help increase the housing supply; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced a new tax authority on vacant homes that will give Toronto and other interested municipalities the power to impose such a tax to encourage owners to sell or rent such spaces;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- 1. That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.”*

Scott F. Mustard

From: sglusk
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant house tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding a meeting on July 14th, I want to register my support of a motion for staff to review the possibility of studying and implementing a vacant house tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Lusk

From: Tim Schnarr
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I fully support the recent motion brought before Council that the Vacancy Tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study. There is an urgent need to improve access to affordable housing and this would be a good first step in that direction.

Timothy Schnarr

Sent from my iPad

From: Michael Gannon

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:40 PM

To: Councillor, Alan Ho – Markham; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham ; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham; Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham; Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham; Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham; Mayor Scarpitti; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham ; Clerks Public

Cc: Taylor, Andy

Subject: Vacant House Tax Deputation

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This written deputation on behalf of the URA (Unionville Residents Association) is in strong support of the motion that was on the DSC agenda yesterday, but was deferred to Council tomorrow, Wednesday July 14th.

The URA has a good history of engagement on affordable housing issues, including a very well attended housing affordability forum in 2017, see our [Newsletter](#) report for details. In subsequent surveys, both of our membership, and the general public during the Unionville Festival, we encountered strong public support for such a tax. See survey results in this 2018 [Newsletter](#).

Given the large number of single family dwellings in Ward 3, many of us have experienced first hand the safety and appearance issues caused by lack of maintenance of too many vacant houses. Vacant apartments/townhouses must also be taken into account in terms of the overall impact on affordable housing availability.

Of course details are important, hence we strongly urge you to approve the motion requesting staff to investigate options and report back. We would also add that such a tax should be big enough to have a real impact, and not risk being dismissed as just a cost of doing business.

Regards

Mike Gannon

President URA

From: Andre Marcil
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Motion to impose vacancy tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the City of Markham Council:

Please note that I support the subject motion, as summarized below.

Respectfully,

André Marcil

Now therefore be it resolved:

That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration

From: Valerie Burke

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:05 PM

To: Clerks Public

Subject: Motion regarding the implementation of a vacancy tax - Council Meeting, July 14, 2021

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Members of Markham Council

Re: Motion regarding the implementation of a Vacancy Tax

Please support the motion to impose a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units. It is imperative that residential units are occupied so that local businesses, schools and services within the community can thrive. Vacant houses are often neglected and create a negative impact on neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,

Valerie and Dave Burke

Thornhill Residents

From: Nancy Walton
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

It has recently come to my attention that the council is in the process of considering implementing a Vacant Home Tax.

Living on Sir Constantine for over 20 years, I have grown tired and angry, having to walk by and live near torn down houses that remain vacant, rodent infested lots for YEARS. In particular I site the lot on Parkway that was empty for over two years, as was the lot on Paramount. Both lots were owned by the same company and were dormant for far too long before construction began on the replacement houses.

At one point, the safety fencing surrounding the vacant heap of rotting mess on Parkway was removed and my husband and I acted immediately to contact our councillor to get the fencing back up. Karen Rea accomplished this task very quickly.

Please institute a vacant lot tax because our once beautiful neighbourhood is becoming an eye sore and the empty, garbage filled lots are attracting all sorts of wildlife, including our recent influx of coyotes.

Thank you for taking the time to year this message.

Nancy W. Walton

Sent from my iPhone

From: Josie Zappulla
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon, I'm a resident of Markham and I support the investigation of options to impose a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative for recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

My name is Josie Giuseppina Zappulla and I live at [REDACTED]. Markham ON.

thanks.

From: Robert Noble
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacancy Tax Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

Please be advised that The residents of xx Squire Bakers lane are supportive of sending the proposed Vacancy tax Proposal back to the town staff for further work and consideration for presentation to council in the 4th quarter of 2021.

Sincerely

Robert A Noble

From: Janaki Nagulan
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Vacant residential units

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I would like to support investigating options for vacant properties. Vacant properties are a safety risk and impact all of us. The lack of maintenance further reduces the curb appeal for those of us who do occupy our homes.

Janaki Nagulan

From: Clint
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Support for motion re: vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

As a resident of Markham Village I would like to express my support for the motion that staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Thank you,

Clint Marcham

From: ann cape
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Response to Motion RE: Taxing Vacant Residences

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in favor of this motion. I do want council to investigate options, including taxing, vacant residences in Markham.

Thank you.

Ann Cape

From: Nesta Morris

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:24 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Reid McAlpine <reid@reidmcalpine.ca>

Subject: Tax on empty homes

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my support for a tax on empty homes. Kindly pass this on to the councillors.

Thanks

Nesta Morris

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carole Noble
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Absentee Home Owners

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I support the motion that the Vacancy Tax proposal be sent back to staff for further study and report back to Council in the Fourth Quarter of 2021.

I have difficulty understanding why this motion would be denied. It seems that the good of the community can only be served by having each home occupied by the owner, his/her family or by someone renting the home. Who does it serve if this issue is not addressed and homes stand empty?

Carole Noble

From: Gerry Pierce
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Proposed tax on vacant homes

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I support imposing a tax on vacant homes and agree that staff should be directed to look into options for its imposition.

Gerry Pierce

Sent from my iPad

From: Jessica Page Filgiano
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant homes tax investigation motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I am a resident of Markham Village and a recent first time home buyer. I am writing in support of this motion as it will provide more opportunities for young families and new home owners to enter the real estate Markham and contribute to our vibrant community.

Too often are potential residents of homes out-bid for the home to then sit empty for months or years in an already limited market. The homes are often not properly maintained having a negative effect on the neighbourhood.

I support the idea that City staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units and to report back to Council.

Thank you,

Jessica Page Filgiano

From: Arun Gupta
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant property tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir,

I would like the City of Markham to look at bringing in the vacant property tax to increase rental units availability and affordability.

Sent from my iPhone

Arun gupta

From: Brett Bergmann
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Support of vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my support for the vacant home tax motion that is being discussed this week.

Brett Bergmann

Brett

From: Liza Lyon
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Attendance at tomorrow's meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Clerks Office,

Just received an email from a Councillor Rea and would like to partake in tomorrow's meeting.

In the mean time I would like to object to the motion. My concerns are:

- I'm a home owner who gets transferred sometimes every few years at our head office in Montreal. Our last assignment was meant to be a year long and it actually lasted 4 years where we came back once a month and sometimes every few months and had a property management service maintaining the house and property. We were put up in a hotel/apartment but our primary residence remained Markham. Under this new proposal we would be charged a vacant tax even though our home remained our primary property.

- The same can be said for snow birds - why should they be punished for being snow birds if their homes are maintained?

I believe this motion is not in the best interest of home owners who have worked hard buying homes and pay their property taxes. I submit my objection against it.

Best regards,
Liza.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Jean Stewart
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:35 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Tax on Vacant Property

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Definitely the Tax on Vacant Property is an excellent solution.

- 1 The money could be used to care for the landscaping.
2. Money has a way of forcing owners to behave responsibly.
3. Since we are in a scarcity of places to rent scenario this seems greedy to hold out.
4. The vibrancy of a street is healthy when there is activity in every home.

Jean Stewart

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: Ardy Reid
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant premise tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the motion to implement a tax on vacant premises.

Places were meant to be lived in and/or used and it does not serve a community or a business area to have buildings left vacant.

Ardathe Reid

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: Francie Olive
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:11 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Wednesday July 14th Council Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

To whom it may concern:

I am a homeowner in Markham Ontario.

I would like to express my approval of a vacant property tax being imposed on properties in Markham that are purchased and allowed to sit vacant.

It is very difficult for first time buyers to financially afford the high prices of homes and properties in Markham.

Having vacant homes and properties helps to increase the costs for other buyers in this area and therefore makes it very difficult for some people to get into the housing market.

Thank you

Frances Olive

From: Debbie Burton
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Housing Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in agreement with a vacant housing tax. There are far too many vacant houses where properties are not being maintained and it affects the homeowners within those communities who are looking after their properties.

Thanks Debbie Burton

--

Have a Great Day...Deb :)

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it" (Maya Angelou)

From: Jean Gagnon
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:38 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am fully supportive of the motion brought forward by Councillor Karen Rea, namely :

1. That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Jean Gagnon

Sent from my iPad

From: Art Hale
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Karen Rea's Vacant Tax Motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We fully support Councillor Rea's Vacant Tax Motion for all of the reasons she put forward.

Art & Laurie Hale

From: Richard Jacobs
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Proposed Vacant Property Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a longtime resident of Markham, I wish to endorse the recent motion by our councillor, Karen Rae and others to impose a vacant property tax.

I believe that this motion is an essential part of a strategy to make housing more affordable in Markham.

I would appreciate the opportunity to attend the meeting where this will be debated, by Zoom video.

Regards,

Richard Jacobs

Sent from my iPad

From: Dawson
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:11 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: 'vacant tax'

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We absolutely support Karen Rea in her motion to have homeowners taxed when their property remains vacant.

We agree with her & other supporters in that levying this tax may encourage more owners to put their houses up for sale, thus helping our younger people to perhaps purchase their first home.

Not only do vacant homes often show terrible neglect of the property, we also feel that this could be an 'invitation' to break-ins and vandalism on the streets of our communities.

Loraine & Rand Dawson

From: Kevin Terry
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:37 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Comments on Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Karen Rea,

I was very pleased to see your initiative on a vacant home tax.

I grew up in Markham and have lived here for most of my life. I love this city and would love it if I could settle down and raise my children in the same neighbourhoods I grew up in. Although both myself and my partner make more than the median salary for Canadians, and have taken great steps to save money for a downpayment; home ownership seems like an impossibility.

We save most of our income, and yet each year buying a home seems further and further out of reach. I don't know how much of an effect a vacant home tax will have, but I appreciate the effort.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email,

Kevin Terry

From: Angie Karas
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:45 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Access to Council Meeting of Wed July 14 1pm

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerks Department,

Please provide the link for the Council meeting of Wed July 14 at 1pm.

I am in favour of Counsellor Rae's motion for Markham to implement a vacant house tax as quickly as possible. This is long overdue.

Thank you,

Angie Karas

From: Marcia Archer <marciarcher@rogers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Tax on vacant houses

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do implement a tax on these houses.

It will free up houses for rent and also prevent all the vacant uncared properties that are an eyesore to the neighbors

Marcia Archer
Markham, ON

Sent from my iPhone

From: Surjit Sachdev
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:57 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Subject: VACANT HOUSING TAX-MOTION

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, am a senior resident of Markham who supports Councillor Karen Rea's motion to ask staff to investigate the option of taxing unoccupied homes in Markham.

Sincerely,

Surjit Sachdev

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Evelin
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:00 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacancy house tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Vacancy House Tax

To members of Markham Council,

We urge you to support the motion regarding residential Units as follows:

That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Vacant Houses are expensive for the City to monitor and pose a safety hazard to our communities because they are prone to fire and vandalism.

Neighbours have to advise the City of these properties and that uses City Resources sending BY-law enforcers, administration of the complaints, trying to find the owners, etc.

An example in Thornhill is 3 Elm Ridge Acres. It had been vacant since or before 2006. Neighbours and the Ward One (South) Thornhill Residents Inc have constantly and emailed the City about this property. The grass is always overgrown, It was poorly cut last Friday after a complaint,

The roof has weeds growing out of it and there is no maintenance to the property as seen in the photos attached. How much has it cost the City in dealing with [3 Elm Ridge Acres](#)?

Thank you,

E. Ellison

From: Ann Li
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:07 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax Proposals

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk's Office,

Would you kindly register my support for the motion ?

1. *That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4,2021 for Council's consideration.*

Thank you.

Ann

From: DARYN DEMAAYER
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:29 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

We are on vacation at a Provincial Park and unable to attend the meeting Wednesday, July 14th at 1pm regarding the Vacant Tax discussions. We are in 100% agreement with our City Councillor's (Karen Rea) motion to impose a Vacant Tax on those houses that are purchased for investment, without occupancy or proper care/maintenance to the outer part of the homes. This is not fair to the residents who actually live in our homes and maintain them well, with pride, inside and out.

In addition, we have 2 adult children living with us, working full time and saving for a house. To Karen's point, the high cost of homes is outrageous and our kids feel they have no hope in ever owning a house.

Our vote is to impose a Vacant Tax on investors who buy homes that sit empty and unmaintained.

Thank you for considering our "vote" and concerns about this real issue in Markham.

Kindest Regards,

Terry and Daryn De Maeyer

Sent from my iPhone

From: tupper wheatley
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:42 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: VACANT HOUSE TAX MOTION

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Markham Council,

I support this motion. One house in our neighbourhood has been vacant for over 10 years. It has been a source of aggravation for the neighbours. Tarpaulins covering the roof blowing all over. Unlicensed cars parked all over the property. Grass not being cut. Raccoons and skunks taking up residence on the property and visiting everyone else and causing damage. Bylaws do what they can but the eye sore of this "abandoned" building persists.

Across from us is a property that sold in November of last year and has been sitting vacant ever since. They have an unusually large infestation of Gypsy moth caterpillars that have crawled up the garage wall to the soffits and pupated now hatching into hundreds of moths. Other neighbours are doing what they can to protect both their own and city trees but with the property sitting vacant the infestation goes unattended. Last week I perchance smelt gas and traced it to this same house. Upon calling Enbridge a service rep. Discovered a leaking main valve and a valve to a fire pit also leaking. If someone was residing there this could have been picked up earlier.

A third house requires regular calls to bylaws to attend to the overgrown weeds, etc. on the property. It is eventually attended to. Leaves fall and are not raked up, drifting into the road and onto neighbours' lots, sometimes ignored through the entire winter. Newspapers accumulate in the driveways. This is disrespectful to existing residents who in most cases try to "KEEP MARKHAM BEAUTIFUL"

Having delivered notices for 10,000 Trees plantings to various neighbourhoods in Markham, I have observed that this vacancy problem is not particular to any one area in the City. This tax can not come soon enough. It must, however, be severe enough to act as a deterrent for absentee landlords to not have their properties sit vacant and/or neglected

Thank you

Tupper Wheatley

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Carole Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:44 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant house tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I agree with the tax on vacant property.

From: Luci Hubbard
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:59 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant property

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the motion to impose a tax on unoccupied properties.

I live next door to a vacant property and for many reasons would prefer that it was occupied and thus maintained to a standard befitting our neighborhood.

Sincerely

Luci Hubbard

Sent from my Galaxy

From: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:57 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: FW: Councillor Karen Rea - Ward 4, Vacant Tax Motion

Please add to the comments.

Karen Rea

Ward 4 Councillor

City Of Markham

101 Town Centre Blvd

Markham, Ontario, L3R 9W3

905-477-7000 ext 7751

[Click here to subscribe to Councillor Rea's e-newsletter](#)

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From: Sharon
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:35 PM
To: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: RE: Councillor Karen Rea - Ward 4, Vacant Tax Motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for another great newsletter Karen. I am in total agreement with the proposed vacant tax and hope it goes through.

Sharon McIntyre

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:59 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: FW: Councillor Karen Rea - Ward 4, Vacant Tax Motion

Please add to comments for the motion.

From: Norine Graham-Robinson
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Re: Councillor Karen Rea - Ward 4, Vacant Tax Motion

As a resident of Ward 4 I wholeheartedly support your motion
Norine Graham-Robinson

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alexis Edghill Whalen
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Motion - Vacant Homes Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Markham Councillors,

I am writing in support of Councillor Rea's motion to study a vacant homes tax.

I agree that we must closely examine all possible levers to bring to market more housing supply, especially the inventory that is *within our existing urban boundaries*. Relying on the acceleration of new greenfield housing stock to increase options is not a sustainable strategy.

Thank you,

Alexis Whalen

From: Elisabeth Tan

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:45 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham <DHamilton@markham.ca>; Mayor Scarpitti <MayorScarpitti@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>; Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham <ILee@markham.ca>; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham <RMcAlpine@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham <JLi3@markham.ca>; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham <KIrish@markham.ca>; Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham <KUsman@markham.ca>; Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham <AKeyes@markham.ca>; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham <ACollucci@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham <jjones@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham <jheath@markham.ca>; Councillor, Alan Ho - Markham <Alan.ho@markham.ca>

Cc: Taylor, Andy <ataylor@markham.ca>

Subject: Motion - Vacant Homes Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor & Councillors,

Please, support the motion re. The Vacant Homes Tax.

Our City doesn't look the same anymore with all the vacant homes and our talented young people are moving away from Markham, since they can not afford a home in Markham.

Many jurisdictions are already putting a tax on vacant homes.

I am in support of the motion below.

Motion - Vacant Tax

Whereas housing prices have seen a significant increase in the past couple of years; and

Whereas residents, especially young residents are experiencing difficulty entering the housing market due to a lack of affordable homes; and

Whereas there has been an increase in buyers purchasing properties and upon closing, many of these homes remain unoccupied; and

Whereas some absentee homeowners are not maintaining their properties; and

Whereas implementing a residential vacant unit tax will encourage homeowners to maintain, occupy or rent their properties which will help increase the housing supply; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced a new tax authority on vacant homes that will give Toronto and other interested municipalities the power to impose such a tax to encourage owners to sell or rent such spaces;

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That staff be directed to investigate options for imposing a vacant home tax on the assessment of vacant residential units under the new provincial initiative and report back with recommendations in Q4 2021 for Council's consideration.

Thank you,

Elisabeth Tan

From: Ellen Leong
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:49 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Foreign Property Ownership and Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The Vacant Tax must be significant enough to deter foreign/non-resident speculators/investors from buying properties and then leaving them vacant, and at the same time help push up home prices and property taxes.

Like other countries, Canada should protect its own citizens by either disallowing foreign ownership of properties in the country, or impose a heavy enough tax to deter foreigners from buying so as to protect its own citizens. A heavy tax should apply at the point of purchase as well as on an annual basis for all foreign ownership.

We watch with disgust a three-car garage house on Fincham Avenue being left vacant in the past several years, while some of our own citizens are having difficulties finding a place to live.

ELeong, a concerned citizen

From: Don Chen
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:58 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Re: Motion - Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

As Markham residents my wife and I would like to express our support of the vacant tax to protect the integrity and wellbeing of the communities, as learned from our ward councilor Karen Rea.

Over the years we have seen precarious situations in the real estate market esp. traditionally residential areas from foreign money and speculative maneuvers. The drastically jacked up prices is spelling detriment to our next and their next generations due to the short sightedness of many and greed of others, and on the other hand brings excessive damage to the fragile natural environment from undue land development.

While short of detecting and curbing the foreign-funded activities, the vacant tax is a starting point. I hope all tiers of government can herald a comprehensive legislation to address the dilemma of the future Canadians.

Sincerely
Don
Pei

From: E&R B&B
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Motion - Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please be advised that I support the motion about directing staff to investigate a vacant tax for Markham.

I believe that such a tax would discourage the practice of leaving houses vacant, thereby helping to increase the supply of rental housing.

Regards,
Elizabeth Blakley

From: Mike Clare

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:24 AM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>; Reid McAlpine <reid@reidmcalpine.ca>

Subject: Vacant Housing Tax motion before Council July 13

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of Council,

Once again I wish to congratulate the members of council for your unanimous support of the Housing Strategy Plan, a bold step. In keeping with the spirit of the Housing Strategy The Markham Inter-Church Committee For Affordable Housing (MICAHA) endorses the motion put forward by Councilors Karen Rae and Reid McAlpine to direct staff to study the options of introducing a vacancy tax. For me this is a no brainer, a short run low hanging piece of fruit to increase the available rental stock for both low income earners and the missing middle. Having properties occupied is a bonus for all of Markham. Revenues generated from a vacancy tax could be dedicated to assisting those agencies dedicated to assisting the precariously housed. MICAHA would truly appreciate it if this motion was sent to staff for serious consideration, in our opinion this is an appropriate use of tax policy to influence positive behaviour.

All the best.

Mike Clare

President

Markham Inter-Church Committee For Affordable Housing (MICAHA)

From: Rick Darche
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Our young people are facing monumental hurdles in trying to purchase a home. Increasing the shrinking supply would certainly help them over a few hurdles. It is a proven fact that a vacant tax will free up many homes for rent or sale.

Not only for our young but also to keep our communities in good shape.
We need to impose a vacant tax!

Rick Darche

From: Alf Chalk

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:02 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Vacant Tax Motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

I am writing regarding the Vacant Tax motion moved by Councillor Karen Rae and seconded by Councillors Reid McAlpine and Alan Ho, which I understand will be voted on at the Development Service Committee on Wednesday July 14th.

I have read the motion and am in support.

Sincerely,

Alfred Chalk

From: PK G
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:45 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm definitely in favor of this.

Patrick King

From: Lorraine Fish
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:17 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax Motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it may concern,

Home or property ownership is a responsibility. A responsibility to maintain the investment but mostly a responsibility & respect for the neighbors surrounding the property and the environment of the neighbourhood.

Too often people buy a property and leave it vacant and not only do the gardens/lawn remain upkept/weed infested/unattractive but it can pose a security issue for neighbours.

I would like to see this Vacant Tax Motion approved by the city.

Thank you,

Lorraine Fish

From: Carmela Petsinis
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:39 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Support Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Yes, I'm in favour of a tax being imposed on vacant homes, there are many popping up in my neighborhood that are unkept and bring down the property value of the homes around it.

Carmela Petsinis

Sent from my iPhone

From: Niranjana Balachandran
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Support vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the vacant home tax.

Niranjana

From: Mario Crespi
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the motion by Counsellor Karen Rae.

Mario Crespi

From: R.E.(Reg) PEMBLETON
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I totally support the motion to implement a Vacant tax.

Most of these houses have owners who do live in Markham or in another country and being vacant is a threat to us in the community.

R.E. (Reg) Pembleton

From: ROBERT BAIRD <cbbaire@rogers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:06 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to give my full support to a Vacant Tax Bob Baird

Sent from my iPad

From: Rich Coram
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:47 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear council,

As a long time Markham resident, I have grown increasingly concerned about the number of vacant properties in my neighborhood. Our neighborhood is not an investment bank!

It is a total shame that viable properties sit empty and untended by the owners while young, prospective Markham residents with families are unable to find adequate housing in our community. By implementing the vacant unit tax put forward by counselor Karen Rea, it would encourage investment owners to rent the properties and look after and maintain the properties that are currently vacant. The vacant properties tend to hollow out a community and Markham is such a special place that I find this very distressing.

Please support the motion in place to explore a vacant tax for Markham at the next council meeting.

Sincerely,

Rich Coram

From: Sandra Karda
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:50 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I definitely support the Vacant Tax. It will not only add more homes to the housing supply but also aid in keeping the properties in good repair and hence maintaining attractive communities in Market.

I support Councillor Karen Rea's motion in asking staff to look into implementing a Vacant Tax.

Thank you

Sandra Karda

Sent from my iPad
Sandra Karda

From: Vicky
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello to all,

I would like to know how many vacant homes there are in Markham. It is well publicized in Vancouver, but this isn't mentioned in reference to Markham. I just know there are a lot of neglected properties here.

I am in favor of this vacant home property tax as well as increasing the fines for failed property standards. The fines now are not enough of a deterrent.

Thanks,
Victoria Tomev
Markham, Ont.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Marg Ferguson
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:09 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in support of the vacant tax if the house goes for say, over a month with no one living in it. Quite often what will happen is Neighbours will cut the grass etc., in order to keep the 'neighbourhood up.'

Sometimes the house is vacant for over a year, sometimes the owner (usually in another country) has a company looking after it, but not often.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Marg Ferguson

From: Carol Retter>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:55 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>

Cc: Derek Retter

Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please note that I absolutely support a Vacant Tax. As a proud homeowner in the Raymerville area for over 35 years, the fact that many properties in this area are being sold and then left unoccupied is of great concern to me.

I walk this area on a regular basis and am astonished at the number of homes that seem to be vacant and often neglected. At the same time, I have adult children who have no hope of owning a home in this area. Obviously, this issue is of great concern.

Please make note of my comments and feel free to present my name and contact information at the meeting July 14th and as well at any subsequent meetings pertaining to this issue.

Kind regards,

Carol Retter

From: David Smith
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:38 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a 30+ year resident of Markham, I fully support this motion which is long overdue.

The house beside me, 86 Bishop Crescent, was purchased a few years ago and has been vacant for over a year now. The owner does not maintain the property and so the back garden now looks like a jungle.

In the spring, someone came and put on the air conditioning but never removed the cover from the outside unit. Fortunately, I heard it come on and removed it.

It is abused that these absentee owners are allowed to get away with this and bring down the value of the homes around it as it looks like a derelict home..

David

From: craig rowland
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:13 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello there,

I am 100% in favour of a vacant tax being implemented. Unfortunately this has become a major problem in Markham. Something needs to be done. We need to punish these delinquent, opportunistic, speculative, greedy, absentee, vacant homeowners. There are homes ALL OVER MARKHAM that are sitting vacant and are not being maintained at all. And everyone knows it. Its being done blatantly, right out in the open. One doesn't have to look very far or that hard to notice them. They stick out like sore thumbs. One of these such homes is directly behind our house. It has been vacant for the last 3 or 4 years (or more), since the previous, long time owner moved out. And, as all too often happens, the property hasn't been maintained AT ALL. The house/property has gone from one of the loveliest properties on the street and in town, to a complete, run down, eyesore, vacant and covered knee deep in weeds. And the owners won't even rent it out to anybody. It's just been sitting vacant for years. My guess is they're just speculating on its value to dramatically go up so that they can flip it and make a quick, substantial profit.

We have a massive affordable housing crisis in Toronto, the GTA and right here in Markham and everyone knows that. That's not even up for debate. yet we have places like this - hundreds, if not thousands of them, all over town - sitting VACANT because these greedy slumlords want to take full advantage of a vibrant, booming, lucrative housing market and make themselves even richer. It's all about dollar signs to them. That's all they care about.

It's outrageous and needs to stop. I don't know how you do it, but a vacant tax seems to be a great place to start. Clearly something needs to be done to prevent this type of conduct. Hopefully it will be effective and can be policed and enforced. Thats the key. And there needs to be stiff, tough financial penalties and punishment for trying to circumvent these laws. That has to be considered as well. Because, 1. The only way these guys will understand, and follow the rules, is if it could potentially affect them in their pocketbook. And 2. if there's a way around this tax, you can bet your bottom dollar, these guys will find a way around it. And if the penalties for "getting around" this tax or other similar measures aren't steep enough, violating them will simply be incentivized. Loopholes will have to be imagined and then completely closed up - beforehand.

So put me down for a big fat YES in favour of a vacant tax. In fact, this should have been done A LONG TIME AGO. It's about time it's finally on the table. It's long overdue.

And two thumbs up to councillor Karen Rea for supporting and tabling this motion and for doing the right thing as always. And to Alan Ho as well for supporting it. It's duly noted and rest assured this will not be going unnoticed. i will be voting for BOTH of them in future municipal elections.

Craig Rowland

From: Marlene Paige
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: vacant tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On my daily walk I counted 11 possible vacant homes. This makes no sense, other than it is a way of parking money, with non taxable rewards in it's owner . Yes tax them please. Marlene Paige

From: SOLO Landlords

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:04 AM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Vacant Homes New Tax Authority - OPPOSED until the real root issue is resolved

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn: City of Markham

I am opposed to a vacant home tax until all the Municipalities start looking at one of the root causes to empty homes. I challenge the City of Markham to investigate the root cause and not implement a vacant tax until this is resolved.

The Landlord Tenant Board is and has been biased to landlords/property providers for years/decades.

You can be defrauded in the tens of thousands of dollars with no quick recourse and then the process to collect is another system that does not guarantee you will receive your money back and also adds hundreds of dollars to the property owner to receive justice.

The most well-known recent case in Markham that you would be aware of is the criminal who rented 12 Markham homes. The point here is how long it took for the owners to receive justice. What those property owners had to do to access ownership back of their homes was egregious. The 12 owners paid \$100k in legal costs in addition to their initial paralegal costs. Another property owner, Mr. A. Lai has been trying to get his home back for personal use for 6 months. His tenant's latest trick is to delay the hearing requesting it to be held in a different language. This is not a one week delay. He has been waiting 8 weeks for a rescheduled hearing. There is Heidi, a recently divorced mother in Markham. She has been trying to get back access to her home since May 2019. Her hearing will be tomorrow IF the Adjudicator has time to get to all the cases. There are thousands of cases just like this waiting to be heard at the LTB.

I'm the Vice-Chair of a 3600 landlord group www.soloontario.ca. I know what I'm talking about and I am warning property owners DO NOT RENT YOUR HOME until this is addressed. You have no idea what rabbit hole you are walking into if you get a bad tenant. The Residential Tenancies Act is written to secure the tenancy of a tenant to perpetuity. Even bad tenants. Study the rules, Section 83 and then study Divisional Court. The best option to remove a tenant is for non-payment of rent.....and that has been taking up to a year. Many people will say, "this is a risk that you take" and they are exactly right. This is why property owners are leaving their properties empty because the risk is too high to be in partnership with a government who will not protect the owners and at a minimum give them access to timely justice. This is the perfect recipe for Reducing Rental Housing Stock in Ontario.

The RTA - Residential Tenancies **ACT** impacts the ability of Municipalities to address issues. The Police cannot interfere. Bylaw fines the homeowner not the tenant for any infraction. Utilities like water are put on to the homeowners property tax bill if the tenant does not pay. The Fire Dept fines the homeowner not the tenant for any infractions. If a homeowner has rental arrears from certain tenants on certain programs you can NEVER collect your rental arrears.

The impact has been so severe for thousands of property providers that SOLO has retained Will Davidson LLP for a potential class action suit against the Government of Ontario. Please see our website www.soloontario.ca for documented stories and information on the legal action.

Regards,

Rose Marie

SOLO Inc.

Landlords helping others landlords

From: Tom Poulis
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: New vacancy tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Normally I would be loathe to support tax increases, I am a firm believer that governments should work within the constraints of the budget. However in this case I am in favour of this tax. Speculators sitting on properties waiting for the most opportune time to sell a property with no thought given to its state of repair and contributing to the dirth of available housing is not right.

Thomas Poulis

Markham

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: jbell76jb
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Tax on vacant properties

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We wholly support the vacant property tax. There are too many vacant homes in York Region and have been for too many years. Too many of these properties are unkempt, grass not cut weeds growing rapidly.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® E

From: Joseph Um
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Tax on vacant properties

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir or madam.

My name is Jusoo Um of 30 Quantum St. Markham.

I support implementing a residential vacant unit tax that will encourage homeowners to maintain, occupy or rent their properties which will help increase the housing supply and to encourage owners to sell or rent such spaces.

God bless,

Jusoo Um

From: Jesse Gamble
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the investigation into the vacant home tax.

Jesse Gamble
Markham Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: Gerrie Storr
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant tax and the motion from Karen Rea

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I totally support Councillor Rea's motion. The points she makes in her motion are spot on. My small court (Barker Court) has one house that has been vacant since last year. The original owner died and it took some time for some legal issues to be clarified. It was sold in February. The new owners started renovations and then halted them. The property is not being cared for and is an eye sore in an area (like most of Markham) that prides itself on looking after its properties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Gerrie Storr

From: Shobha Mathur
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sirs

I support the motion to levy tax on vacant homes in Unionville/Markham.

Regards

Shobha Mathur

From: Maggie Brackley
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: VACANT HOME TAX

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband and I support Karen Rae's motion to have staff look at implementing a Vacant Home Tax, for all the reasons Karen has so clearly stated. A tax of this type has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions, why not Markham? It seems this issue has been around since 2016! Lack of affordable housing to rent or buy has now reached crisis stage, what more does it take for Markham City Council to take decisive action?!

Thank you.

Margaret and Michael Brackley

From: allman345

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:30 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>

Subject: Vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a resident of Markham and I am writing to express my support for the vacant home tax motion. Ensuring that the next generation will be able to one day purchase a home in the community they grew up in needs to be protected. Housing should not only be considered as an asset / investment.

I fear that the young people currently growing up in Markham will have no choice but to move further away from the city distancing themselves from better paying jobs.

Regards

S. Allman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vicky
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:19 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am in full support of this tax, but this problem can't be solved without addressing the issue of Beneficial Ownership, which I believe would be helpful in addressing the money laundering haven situation in this country. I know this is a Federal Issue, but it's impact has affected us all and shouldn't be overlooked.

Thanks!

Victoria Tomev

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carolyn Turcotte
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident and home owner of Markham , I support the initiative that council investigate imposing a vacant home tax on properties in our city.

Carolyn Johnston-Turcotte
Claude Turcotte

Sent from my iPhone

From: Keith Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: [SUSPECTED]Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Markham Clerks Office

I am a long term resident of Ward 4 Markham and support todays motion to implement a vacant home tax on properties in our community and to encourage these residents to rent or sell their properties

Thank you in advance

Keith Johnson

From: Nadine Ellul
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please accept this email as confirmation that I would support the notion for a vacant home tax to support our community.

Nadine

- Dr. Nadine M. Ellul

From: Jeffrey CHOMYN
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant home tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

1. I support it.
2. Exemptions need to account for "snowbirds", longer term work assignments, and extenuating circumstances such as longer absences due to family caregiving, health treatment elsewhere, inability to return due to pandemics and changes to Canadian entry policies due to pandemics, ie travellers trapped outside Canada and unable to return.
3. Markham's rate initially needs to match or be higher than proposed Vancouver or Ottawa rates or the problem will move here due to being the "least cost".
4. Bylaws need to be strengthened for maintenance and upkeep to cover these properties (unkept lawns, garbage storage, shared fencing repairs, animals wild or otherwise, tree damage or disease not dealt with esp. if affecting a neighbouring property)
5. Fines and absent occupancy fees need to escalate on a punitive schedule and include removal of city provided infrastructure services (hydro and water).
6. All properties and properties transfer registration for the tax rolls should require proof of home insurance (as for vehicle licensing). Unoccupied properties would have the insurance provider notified as part of the application of the tax (most policies require home monitoring and/or visits on a regular basis to avoid cancellation of insurance due to lack of ability to avoid any ongoing damage).

Please send me the detail of the zoom meeting.

Thank you

Jeff Chomyn

From: Joan Breckenridge
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I don't support the tax because I'm not convinced it will motivate people to rent or occupy their property or properties. If you can afford to buy 1 or multiple properties and leave them empty for extended periods of time, you can well afford to pay a vacant home tax. I don't think it will accomplish the goal being set out by the city. Another solution needs to be found.

Joan Breckenridge

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Jean Stewart
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Fw: Tax on Vacant Property

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Definitely the Tax on Vacant Property is an excellent solution.

- 1 The money could be used to care for the landscaping.
2. Money has a way of forcing owners to behave responsibly.
3. Since we are in a scarcity of places to rent scenario this seems greedy to hold out.
4. The vibrancy of a street is healthy when there is activity in every home.

Jean Stewart

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: Michael Chiang
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: I do not support vacant home taxes

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a resident in the city of Markham, and I **do not** support vacant home taxes in the city.

Thanks,

Michael Chiang

From: Alan Caulfeild-Browne
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacancy Tax

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my support for having the city investigate options for implementing a vacant tax on unoccupied homes. I understand that details on exemptions and the implementation would be part of the investigation.

Thank you,

Alan Caulfeild-Browne

From: Y Shekster
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: vacant tax motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. **DO NOT CLICK** on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to support the vacant tax motion.

Thank you,

-Yvonne Shek and Ron Oliva

From: Doug Crocker
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>
Subject: Vacant Home Tax Motion

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Absolutely great idea! Long overdue. But any extra tax that is eventually implemented has to be substantive enough to make the vacant home owners wince instead of just treating it as a cost of doing business.

Regards,

Doug Crocker