

February 3, 2024

Re. Frederick Woo revised written deputation for the
public meeting on Feb 15, 2024 @ 7:00pm about City 2024 draft budget

Mr. Mayor, Councillors.

Good evening. My name is Frederick Woo.

I am pleased to have learned a 2.99% increase of property tax for 2024 from the public meeting on last Jan 29 about 2024 draft budget, and that Council is connecting with provincial government on modifying Bill 23 so as to mitigate, I hope, city finance and property taxes as suggested in my deputation in the public meeting on last March 9 about City 2023 budget at which a potential tax increase of 99% for the next three years from 2024 due to Bill 23 was tabled. However, I have learned from Ward 3 Councillor's February 2024 that the 2024 draft budget with 2.99% tax increase "does not account for the potential \$136M revenue shortfall identified in 2023". Hoping this will be reconciled without reducing city service level and impacting taxes at the end. Still I commend Council and City staff on striving for the 2.99% tax increase to which I have nothing to add.

However, I would like to revisit infrastructures on health care in particular, education, transportation, etc. due to population growth I raised in my deputation in last March 9 Council public meeting as they may impact City services level and finance.

Ward 3 Councillor in the community information meeting about Markville Mall development on last Jan 25 advised that there had been a plan last year to expand Markham Stouffville Hospital. I hope this is true as Richmond Hill Mayor David West, in his reply email to me of Jan 28, 2024 copied Mr. Mayor and Councillors, said that Mackenzie Health would be expanded to accommodate population growth in Richmond Hill and Vaughan, and "will continue to plan for future growth in South Western York Region as time goes on." It is apparent that expansion of hospitals has become a trend in municipalities due to needs.

Ward 3 Councillor, upon my inquiry at the community information meeting, responded that implementation of hospital expansion from inception thru construction and commissioning would be administered by board of directors working under the jurisdiction of provincial government contrary to my local MPP Wai's staff written advice to me copied the Mayor that it is under the jurisdiction of municipalities. Funding for health care would be from the provincial government. I believe the City is acquainted with this system.

Furthermore, at the community information meeting, residents suggested that infrastructures for health care, education, transportation,

senior care, etc. be in place to cater for the population growth due to the expected extensive residential developments. That being the case, may I suggest Council give some thought to updating the status of infrastructures perhaps in its annual budget public meeting or thru other means that Council deems more appropriate.

Thank you.

Frederick Woo