

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Deputation on Regional Chair

From:

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 9:58 AM

To: Mayor & Councillors; Kitteringham, Kimberley

Subject: Deputation on Regional Chair

Good morning,

As I am unable to attend the meeting tonight I am writing in advance to provide my views on the issue of the election vs. "crowning" of the Regional Chair.

I am in favour of the motion to have the Chair of York Region elected by the people he or she is meant to serve. I have heard all of the arguments against it but I am not convinced. Here are some of my reasons:

1. Members of the public were aware of some of the backroom deals and bargaining that went on to "crown" the present Chair. We found it disillusioning, irrelevant to the matter in question, (namely finding a person most capable of being Regional Chair), disrespectful to the residents of York Region, disrespectful to the democratic process, co-opting of those we elected to represent us at the Region, and a disincentive for people to vote.
2. Out of that sordid process we were delivered an individual, to head a region of over 1 million people, whom very few had ever heard of. We knew nothing about his credentials, his abilities, his ideas on urban growth, transit, infrastructure, public health, affordable housing or any other issue of concern to residents of the Region.
3. Since our present Chair was crowned we have been underwhelmed by his performance. We have seen no clear vision for what York Region should be or could accomplish, no connection to members of the public, no dedication to the principle of accountability, no commitment to working with the Province on urban expansion, in short, nothing to recommend him for the job he was handed on a silver platter (albeit a badly tarnished one.)
4. Canada, Ontario, York Region and Markham need voters. We need people who care about their government at all levels. We need people who are active in their communities, who care about issues, who care about those who represent them and how well they perform, who care about how our tax dollars are spent, and who care about each other.
5. Crowning a Regional Chair after multiple backroom deals, back stabbing, unholy alignments, and promises that are irrelevant to the issue at hand is one of the very best ways to ensure that people lose interest in politics, in working for those they feel are worthy, and in working for the greater good. Voter apathy is the arch enemy of democracy and good government.

So, you can argue about the financial cost of running a Regional election, or the interests of smaller versus larger municipalities in the Region, but in the end the interests of the democratic process, voter engagement, confidence in government, and elections based on merit trump all. Please, let us not hand that tarnished silver platter on to the next Chair of York Region. It is a gift unworthy of all of us.

Thank you for considering my deputation.

Marilyn Ginsburg,

Thornhill

2

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Support for Bill 42

From: Elizabeth Chong
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Mayor & Councillors
Cc: Kitteringham, Kimberley; [KRea@markham.c](mailto:KRea@markham.ca)
Subject: Support for Bill 42

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to add my support to Councillor Karen Rea's motion to support Bill 42, to provide that the head of council of The Regional Municipality of York must be elected.

Regards,
Elizabeth Chong

3

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Support for Bill 42

From: Doug Crocker
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 12:26 PM
To: Mayor & Councillors
Cc: Kitteringham, Kimberley; Rea, Karen
Subject: Support for Bill 42

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to add my support to Councillor Karen Rea's motion to support Bill 42, to provide that the head of council of The Regional Municipality of York must be elected.

Regards,

Doug Crocker