

Event:	Council Meeting – Outgoing Councillors
Date/Time:	Tuesday November 27, 2018 7:00 pm
Location:	Canada Room
Contact(s) on site:	Bryan Frois
Purpose:	Acknowledge outgoing Councillors

Mayor's Speaking Notes:

- GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US. BEFORE WE BEGIN TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO RECOGNIZE FOUR ACCOMPLISHED LEADERS AND COLLEAGUES.
- PUBLIC SERVICE IS A CALLING AND GOVERNMENT IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.
- THESE FOUR EXEMPLARY INDIVIDUALS HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEY DID SO WITH THE UTMOST OF INTEGRITY.
- TONIGHT, WE SALUTE AND THANK – COUNCILLOR VALERIE BURKE, COUNCILLOR COLIN CAMPBELL, COUNCILLOR ALEX CHIU AND REGIONAL COUNCILLOR NIRMALA ARMSTRONG.
- WARD 1 COUNCILLOR VALERIE BURKE WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 2006 AND HAS SERVED THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS.
- SADLY, SHE HAS DECIDED NOT TO RUN AGAIN AND SHE WILL BE MISSED.
- HER INCREDIBLE COMMITMENT AND PASSION WILL FOREVER DEFINE COUNCILLOR BURKE'S TENOR.
- SHE HAS LED VARIOUS CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HERITAGE PRESERVING INITIATIVES.
- SHE CO-FOUNDED THE POMONA MILLS PARK CONSERVATIONISTS IN 1999, AND IN 2001, SHE GALVANIZED THE COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE PRECIOUS POMONA MILLS MEADOW FROM DEVELOPMENT
- SHE HAS ADVOCATED FOR THE FIRST PILOT PROGRAM TO PREVENT TURTLES FROM BEING STRUCK BY CARS.
- SHE CHAMPIONED THE CITY OF MARKHAM'S BIRD- FRIENDLY GUIDELINES, WHICH RECEIVED THE 2014 ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING AWARD.
- SHE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING MARKHAM'S CAT ADOPTION AND EDUCATION CENTRE.
- SHE LED MUCH OF THE BEAUTIFICATION AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION OF THORNHILL, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF MURALS AT POMONA TENNIS CLUB AS WELL AT THE HENDERSON/PROCTOR CN BRIDGE.
- SHE HAS BEEN A STRONG ALLY IN ADVOCATING FOR THE YONGE SUBWAY EXTENSION – A CRITICAL RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT THAT IS VITAL TO IMPROVING THE OVERALL NETWORK IN THE GTA.
- SHE IS A STRONG VOICE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES AND FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT YORK REGION, HAVING SUPPORTED VARIOUS PRIDE EVENTS.
- COUNCILLOR BURKE IS A VOICE OF REASON... OFTEN APPROACHING EACH DECISION WITH HEART AND HUMANITY.
- HER KINDNESS IS INSPIRATIONAL.
- HER COMPASSION IS CLEAR BY THE LEGACY SHE LEAVES BEHIND.

- THANK YOU COUNCILLOR BURKE FOR REMINDING US TO ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO OUR ROOTS, TO ALWAYS RESPECT OUR NATURAL SURROUNDINGS AND TO LOOK OUT FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.
- YOUR LEADERSHIP DEFINES WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY - WARM, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE.

(COUNCILLOR BURKE SPEAKS)

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- NEXT IS A MAN WHO IS NO STRANGER TO PUTTING OUT FIRES... OR IN SOME CASES STARTING THEM!
- AFTER A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY AT TORONTO FIRE SERVICES, WARD 5 COUNCILLOR COLIN CAMPBELL ANSWERED THE CALL TO PUBLIC SERVICE - AND HE IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
- AMONG HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS – HE WAS A STRONG VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, FOR THE FALLEN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES.
- HE LED THE CITY OF MARKHAM’S ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS – AND PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE CREATION OF VETERANS SQUARE AND CENOTAPH, HE CHAIRED THE CANADA 150 COMMITTEE.
- IN FACT – COLIN SERVED ON MORE THAN TWENTY COMMITTEES WHILE ON COUNCIL INCLUDING THE MARKHAM VILLAGE BIA AND MUSIC FESTIVAL AND WAS CHAIR OF MARKHAM ENTERPRISE CORPORATION. HE HELPED START THE MARKHAM RUGBY CLUB AND PLAYED IN THE FIRST LEAGUE GAME IN 1981, AND WAS THE FORCE BEHIND BUILDING THE CLUBHOUSE ON AUSTIN DRIVE. HE HELPED MERGE THE CLUB WITH THE IRISH CANADIAN RUGBY CLUB, MAKING IT ONE OF THE BIGGEST CLUBS IN THE PROVINCE. THE MARKHAM IRISH RUGBY CLUB WON THE HERALDED MCCORMICK CUP.
- COLIN IS PROUD OF HIS IRISH ROOTS AND ORGANIZED THE FIRST IRISH HERITAGE EVENT.
- HE SUPPORTED AND LED FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES FOR VICTIMS OF THE JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND FORT MCMURRAY FIRE
- I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN’T MENTION A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT BENEFITTED ALL ONTARIANS – COLING ADVANCED A MOTION IN COUNCIL LEADING TO THE “PUTTING CONSUMERS FIRST ACT 2017” WHICH PROTECTS CONSUMERS FROM BEING HARASSED BY IMMORAL DOOR KNOCKERS SELLING FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONING UNITS TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS.
- THANK YOU SIR FOR ALWAYS ANSWERING THE CALL TO DUTY! YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY WELL AND YOU HAVE LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON US ALL.

(COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL SPEAKS)

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- WARD 8 COUNCILLOR ALEX CHIU IS A MAN OF A FEW WORDS... BUT HE IS A MAN WITH CONVICTION AND CHARACTER.

- AFTER 33 YEARS, ALEX HAS MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO RETIRE AND WE ALL KNOW HE LIKELY NOT SLOW DOWN.
- HE REMINDS US WHY WE ARE HERE... WHY WE ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.
- HIS LOVE FOR THIS COMMUNITY IS DEEP. EVERY DECISION HE HAS MADE IS DRIVEN BY THAT LOVE.
- ALEX FIRST JOINED MARKHAM COUNCIL IN 1985, THE SAME YEAR I DID.
- ALEX STRONGLY ADVOCATED FOR MARKHAM'S CHANGE FROM TOWN TO CITY
- HE HAS HELPED SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY FROM ITS HUMBLE AGRICULTURAL ROOTS TO THE VIBRANT CITY IT IS TODAY.
- ALEX GOT INTO POLITICS FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS. HE IS A CHAMPION FOR HIS COMMUNITY – MILLIKEN MILLS.
- HE PUSHED TO BUILD THE MILLIKEN MILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE, PARKS AND SPACES FOR ALL TO ENJOY. PERHAPS WHAT REALLY SETS ALEX APART – IS HIS SUPPORT OF VARIOUS WORTHY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN'S CAUSES.
- HE INITIATED AND RAISED FUNDS FOR THE "MOBILE FIRE HOUSE PROJECT" – WHERE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 7 COULD LEARN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY.
- HE SUPPORTED YORK REGIONAL POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY VILLAGE AND HELPED RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FULLY EQUIPPED APARTMENT WHERE STUDENTS LEARN TO PLAN AND EXECUTE A SAFE ESCAPE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
- ALEX INTUITIVELY UNDERSTANDS THAT IN ORDER FOR COMMUNITIES TO SUCCEED, YOU HAVE TO INVEST IN OUR FUTURE... YOU HAVE TO INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION, ALWAYS ENSURING OUR CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED AND SUPPORTED WHILE GIVING THEM THE BEST START IN LIFE.
- ALEX IS A LONG TIME SUPPORTER OF THREE YORK REGION HOSPITALS, INCLUDING MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL.
- HIS BENEVOLANCE, KINDNESS AND COMPASSION SPREAD WELL BEYOND MARKHAM'S BORDERS.
- HE RAISED MONEY FOR THREE VILLAGES IN HIS HOME COUNTRY – THE PHILIPPINES, SUPPORTING THE DISPLACED AND THE HOMELESS... HIS CONTRIBUTIONS SO IMMENSE – IT LED TO THE CREATION OF MARKHAM VILLAGE.
- IT HAS BEEN AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE WITH YOU... WE STARTED OFF AS COLLEAGUES BUT OVER THE YEARS, YOU HAVE BECOME FRIENDS.

(COUNCILLOR CHIU SPEAKS)

- LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE A WOMAN WHO HAS SHATTERED GLASS CEILINGS – A STRONG VOICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS – REGIONAL COUNCILLOR NIRMALA ARMSTRONG.

- NIRMALA IS THE FIRST SOUTH ASIAN WOMAN TO BECOME A REGIONAL COUNCILLOR IN THE CITY OF MARKHAM.
- SHE IS A DISTINGUISHED LAWYER, ACTIVELY PRACTICING LAW FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS AND IS ALSO A LECTURER IN THE FACULTY OF FAMILY LAW FOR THE ONTARIO BAR ADMISSION COURSE AT THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA.
- SHE HAS SUPPORTED VARIOUS CHARITABLE ORGNIZATIONS INCLUDING THE YELLOW BRICK HOUSE AND SERVES AS A LEGAL ADVISOR TO MANY OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE VISION YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND YORK REGION PARENT ASSOCIATION.
- SHE IS THE PAST CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MARKHAM ARTS COUNCIL AND PAST PRESIDENT OF MARKHAM UNIONVILLE ROTARY CLUB.
- SHE IS A STRONG VOICE FOR DIVERSITY AND SERVED AS DIRECTOR FOR THE EQUITY COUNCIL IN YORK REGION AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL SERVICES NETWORK AND AS CHAIR FOR THE MULTICULTURAL AND ANTI-RACISM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.
- SHE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN CREATING HINDU CELEBRATIONS HERE AT THE CITY OF MARKHAM.
- A STRONG VOICE FOR DIVERSITY, SHE HELPED ATTRACT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS MARKET TO MARKHAM AND LOBBIED TO BRING THE CHRISTMAS TREEE HERE AT MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE TO CELEBRATE ALL THE TRADITIONS EACH CULTURE BRINGS.
- SHE IS PART OF SEVERAL COMMITTEES AT THE CITY OF MARKHAM AND YORK REGION INCLUDING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND THE MARKHAM SPORTS HALL OF FAME.
- IN ALL HONESTY – I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE MANAGED TO JUGGLE ALL THOSE ROLES WHILE STILL SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MARKHAM AND YORK REGION... A TRUE POWERHOUSE.
- IN 2002 – SHE RECEIVED THE PRESTIGIOUS QUEEN'S JUBILEE MEDAL, IN 2012 AND QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL IN 2012 FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY... AMONG MANY AWARDS.
- COUNCILLOR ARMSTRONG – THANK YOU FOR DEDICATION, HARD WORK AND PASSION.

(REGIONAL COUNCILLOR ARMSTRONG SPEAKS)