

Bisera, Leikha

Subject: Tonight's vote: Election sign by-law No. 2002-94

From: Rukshan Para

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 12:33 PM

To: Mayor Frank Scarpitti - Markham; Deputy Mayor, Jack Heath - Markham; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham; Regional Councillor, Nirmala Armstrong - Markham; Councillor, Valerie Burke - Markham; Councillor, Alan Ho - Markham; Councillor, Don Hamilton - Markham; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham; Councillor, Colin Campbell - Markham; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham; Councillor, Logan Kanapathi - Markham; Councillor, Alex Chiu - Markham

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Good afternoon Mayor and members of Council,
Hope you all are having a splendid week.

I understand today, the council is going to have a vote on Markham's election signs that are currently regulated by Sign By-law No. 2002-94, and last amended in 2010.

I'm e-mailing you to express my concern on the non-refundable deposit fee of \$500 that will be placed by the candidates during the nomination process.

I understand that this non-refundable fee is to offset the cost of human capital that will be used towards administrating and enforcing the election sign program. However, a candidate who does not violate the program should not be penalized. I am in favour of raising the \$500 to even \$1000 or \$2000 dollars to strike the balance between sign pollution during the municipal election. Nevertheless, a candidate who has not sullied the by-law should be able to get their deposit back.

When it comes to election, the opposition will antagonize the candidate by moving the signs which will call for action by the city and by-law, however, it is up to the candidate to take photo of their signs to dispute in contradiction of action.

I am also in favour of any outstanding, unpaid fines to be placed on the municipal tax roll or sent to collections as per the City's established practices. I will also encourage the council consider placing an extra fine on any unpaid fines within a reasonable time. It can even help to reduce public complaints regarding the proliferation of election signs.

While we want to encourage community members to put their names forward to serve the public, but at the same time the municipal campaign is not for people who see this as a business opportunity to promote themselves or their business. It is a prospect to serve the people not to proliferate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

True Markhamite,
Rukshan Para

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