



Town of
East Gwillimbury

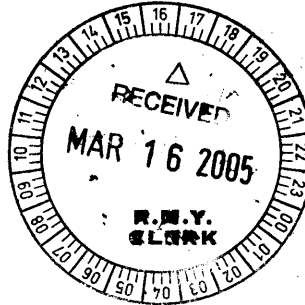
Corporate Services Department

Town of East Gwillimbury
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March 11, 2005

Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge St., P.O. Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk



**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - 904

→ chair
→ CAO
→ S. Cartwright

Dear Mr. Kelly:

**Town of East Gwillimbury Resolution re Pooling of Social Assistance and Social Housing
Costs in the Greater Toronto Area**

For your information and records, at its regular meeting of Committee of the Whole Council on February 21, 2005, Town of East Gwillimbury Municipal Council adopted Resolution CWC 2005-37FIN as follows:

"Moved by: "Councillor C. Morton"

WHEREAS the funding required to provide social services to all people in Ontario who are in need must be derived from sustainable and long-term sources of revenue that can withstand the fluctuations in costs resulting from fluctuations in the provincial and national economy;

AND WHEREAS Provincial legislation requires that municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTAH) must contribute to the funding of social services in the City of Toronto through GTA pooling, resulting in limited funds to provide social services within their own municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the payment of such "pooling costs" amounts to taxation without representation on the residents of GTA municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the current method of funding a significant portion of social services through municipal property taxes is regressive and inappropriate;

AND WHEREAS the method of funding social services costs is more effectively done through income taxes, which method is progressive and more appropriate;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is the only province to require municipalities to contribute towards social assistance;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury has been advised that East Gwillimbury's share of the pooling costs are estimated at \$1.8 million for 2005;

"Our town, Our future"

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AND WHEREAS the businesses and residents of the Town of East Gwillimbury have contributed approximately \$12.6 million to the GTA pooling costs since 1998;

AND WHEREAS an elimination or reduction in pooling costs would benefit all taxpayers in the Town of East Gwillimbury by mitigating the need for property tax rate increases in excess of inflation and by making tax room available that could be used for social assistance and social housing initiatives within the Town;

AND WHEREAS the Town of East Gwillimbury recognizes that there is a deficiency of social housing units and homeless shelters in the Region of York; and, that the current construction by Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region of a new and innovative family shelter located in East Gwillimbury for York Region residents has been halted due to lack of funding;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill has passed a resolution stating it will withhold its share of Regional pooling costs, estimated to be \$15,660,000 in the 2005 Regional levy to bring attention to the problems inherent with GTA pooling costs;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Georgina has passed a resolution stating it will not pay its share of pooling costs to the Region of York, which for Georgina is estimated to be \$2.7 million for 2005;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTAH) Mayors and Chairs have respectfully requested a meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Minister of Finance to discuss a framework for moving toward a more appropriate method of funding social services costs in the GTA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury supports the intent of the resolutions of the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Georgina, attached hereto as Appendixes A and B, respectively;

And further, that the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury respectfully requests that the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Finance take the necessary actions to move toward a more appropriate method of funding social service costs in the GTA;

And further, that this resolution be sent to all municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area requesting they pass a similar motion in this regard;

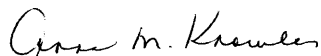
And further, that this resolution be sent to the Provincial Minister of Community and Social Services, Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretsen, and to the Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), the Honourable John Ferguson Godfrey.

Carried.

"Signed on Original"
James R. Young, Mayor"

If you have any further questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Anna M. Knowles
Deputy Clerk

c.c. Hon. G. Sorbara, Min. of Finance
 Hon. J. Gerretsen, Min. of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Hon. S. Pupatello, Min. of Community and Social Services
 Hon. J.F. Godfrey, Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities)
 All Municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area

APPENDIX A
CWC RESOLUTION
FEBRUARY 21, 2005

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING
C#06-05 HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2005
CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW NO. 20-05**

Mayor Bell transferred the Chair to Regional and Local Councillor Hogg.

1.0 Extract - Committee of the Whole meeting CW#03-05 of February 7, 2005

**1.2 Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Pooling – Town of Richmond Hill
Portion – (New Business Item)**

Moved by: Mayor Bell

Seconded by: Councillor Warner

Rec. 17 WHEREAS the City of Toronto has consistently said it is distinct from other municipalities in Ontario and wishes to independently negotiate with other levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the City of Toronto has recently withdrawn as a member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the City of Toronto is currently considering withdrawing from the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance;

AND WHEREAS the City of Toronto currently receives payments for Pooling Costs from municipalities located outside of its boundaries for services rendered by the City of Toronto inside of its boundaries;

AND WHEREAS the payment of such Pooling Costs amounts to taxation without representation on the residents of the Town of Richmond Hill;

AND WHEREAS the City of Toronto has not paid its share of the costs of operating the GO Transit system despite all other GO Transit partners meeting their funding obligations;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Richmond Hill believes that the payment of Pooling Costs to the City of Toronto by municipalities outside the City of Toronto is inconsistent with the stated intentions of the City of Toronto to be considered distinct from other municipalities and to independently negotiate with other levels of government;

(continued)

Agenda Item # D.5.

CWC - February 21, 2005

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Richmond Hill will withhold its share of Regional Pooling Costs estimated to be \$15,660,000 in the 2005 Regional Levy, and should the City of Toronto wish to use Richmond Hill taxpayer money, Council and Staff would be happy to negotiate directly with the City of Toronto;

And further, that this resolution be sent to all municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area requesting their support and requesting that they pass a similar motion in this regard;

And further, that this resolution be sent to the Provincial Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretsen and to the Federal Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), the Honourable John Ferguson Godfrey.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Bell resumed the Chair.

Motion passed at Council Meeting, February 14th, 2005

Moved by Mayor Grossi

Seconded by Councillor Szollosy

WHEREAS THE CITY OF TORONTO HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID IT IS DISTINCT FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO AND WISHES TO INDEPENDENTLY NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT;

AND WHEREAS THE CITY OF TORONTO CURRENTLY RECEIVES PAYMENTS FOR POOLING COSTS FROM MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED OUTSIDE OF ITS BOUNDARIES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CITY OF TORONTO INSIDE OF ITS BOUNDARIES;

AND WHEREAS THE PAYMENT OF SUCH POOLING COSTS AMOUNTS TO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION ON THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA;

AND WHEREAS THE TOWN OF GEORGINA BELIEVES THAT THE PAYMENT OF POOLING COSTS TO THE CITY OF TORONTO BY MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE THE CITY OF TORONTO IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE STATED INTENTIONS OF THE CITY OF TORONTO TO BE CONSIDERED DISTINCT FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AND TO INDEPENDENTLY NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF GEORGINA WILL WITHHOLD ITS SHARE OF REGIONAL POOLING COSTS ESTIMATED TO BE \$2,700,000 IN THE 2005 REGIONAL LEVEL.

AND FURTHER THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE GTA REQUESTING THEIR SUPPORT AND REQUESTING THAT THEY PASS A SIMILAR MOTION IN THIS REGARD.

AND FURTHER THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF FINANCE, GREG SORBARA; MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, JOHN GERRETSEN.

Carried.....