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SENT VIA FAX

September 5, 2006

Mayor & Members of Council
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.,
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

**RE: Election Signs-
Committee of the Whole Item (Tuesday, Sept 5, 2006)**

Dear Mr. Mayor & Members of Council,

As a resident and voter living and working in Vaughan, I am appalled but not surprised by the recommendations on changes to the sign by-law for election signs. Please be advised that I am opposed to the "proliferation" of election signs at many street intersections during election campaigns, but I am strongly opposed to the changes being recommended by staff (councillors) on this item.

My reasons are as follows:

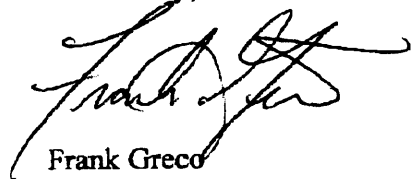
1. The recommended changes to the sign by-law does NOTHING to stop the "proliferation" of election signs. The changes do not control anything such as the number or placement of signs. Residents will still be exposed to the same thousands of signs that normally go up before elections. The only difference is in the "timing" of those signs, being 3 weeks instead of the usual 5-6 weeks before an election date.
2. How is placing signs on PRIVATE properties a proliferation of signs? Mostly all complaints are with the number of repeat signs from candidates at intersections. Restricting signs on private properties is simply restricting voter rights in favour of the incumbent candidates. Could this be the real motivation behind these changes? One could certainly make that case, since these changes are being rammed by Councillors who may be worried about re-election. This perception may come back to seriously impact voter perception about those who vote in favour of these election sign changes.
3. There has been little or no public input into the actual recommendations being proposed today. There was no Public Hearing on this issue and certainly none on the changes except for today's meeting. The fact that a special Council meeting has been called for this evening shows that this item is being "rammed" through just 2 months before an election. This is wrong. Proper public input is imperative

on this matter, for it certainly appears that Council is rushing this with a heavy hand without adequate public input.

4. These changes are in total contravention to the notion that Vaughan and the "Go Vote Vaughan" initiatives try to increase voter participation in the election process and increase voter turnout. These changes will in fact, restrict voter participation and increase voter apathy since voters cannot place signs on PRIVATE property until just 3 weeks before the election date. How does this increase voter participation or protect current voter rights of placing signs 6 weeks before an election??
5. Councillors are well aware that the Region of York will not and can not change its policies with respect to its sign by-law in just two months. So it begs the question, why is Council ramming through these changes when they cannot be implemented before this election? Will Councillors who support these changes adhere to them even though the Region will not approve them before this election?

I strongly request that these changes be put off until the next election when a proper and full public process can be followed.

Yours truly,



Frank Greco
Vaughan Resident and Voter

✓ cc Denis Kelly, Region of York clerk.