



KING

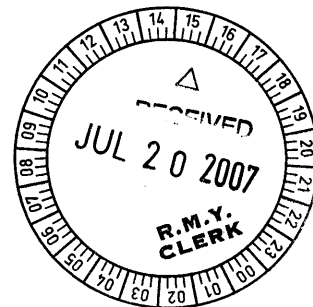
INCORPORATED 1850

TOWNSHIP OF KING

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July 17, 2007

Michael Bryant, Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
TORONTO ON M5G 2K1

Hon. Sir:

**RE: Appointment of Justices of the Peace
Resolutions from the Town of Markham, City of Vaughan
GTAH Mayors and Chairs**

At recent meetings Council of the Township of King considered resolutions from the Council of the Town of Markham, and the City of Vaughan and from the GTAH Mayors and Chairs group regarding the impact made by the shortage of Justices of the Peace in the Central East Region. The Resolutions urged the Attorney General to re-consider an earlier request from the Region of York for the immediate appointment of additional Justices of the Peace to service the Central East Region. (Copies of the resolutions are enclosed).

The Council of the Township of King supports the enclosed Resolutions, and acknowledges and appreciates the appointment of several Justices of the Peace to the Ontario Courts to date, with seven being assigned to the York Region area (Central East Region).

Yours truly

Chris Somerville
Township Clerk
Encl.

c.c. Julia Munro, MPP, York-North
Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance & MPP Vaughan/King/Aurora
Denis Kelly, Clerk, Regional Municipality of York
Sheila Birrell, Clerk, Town of Markham
John Leach, Clerk, City of Vaughan
GTAH Mayors & Chairs

February 28, 2007

Ms. Chris Somerville
Town Clerk
Township of King
2075 King Road
King City, On L7B 1A1

**RE: JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR
CENTRAL EAST REGION (13.2)**

Dear Ms. Somerville:

This will confirm that at the meeting of Council held on February 27, 2007, Clause 1 of Report No. 11, was approved as follows:

“Whereas on March 23rd, 2005, by resolution in March 2005, York Regional Council requested that the Attorney General immediately appoint 11 new Justices of the Peace for the Central East Region;

And Whereas despite the March 23rd resolution, York Region did not receive any of the additional nine Justices of the Peace appointed in 2006;

And Whereas now in 2007 because of the growth in the Region and retirements, the number of new Justices of the Peace required for York Central Region is 14;

And Whereas the possibility of the Justice of the Peace not being present is leading to more individuals choosing to go to court in hopes of avoiding a conviction;

And Whereas the Town of Markham in 2006 experienced over 140 cases that were either withdrawn or had to be re-summonsed, resulting in a loss of approximately 485 staff resource hours;

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And Whereas the courts were closed 60 days in 2006 due to Justices' holidays, courses and sick time which resulted in the inability to process an additional 120 parking tickets issued due to no available court time, representing approximately 240 staff resource hours;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Markham Council strongly urge the Attorney General to re-consider York Regional Council's earlier request for the appointment of additional Justices of the Peace to service Central East Region and immediately appoint an additional 14 Justices of the Peace."

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Birrell
Town Clerk

CITY OF VAUGHAN

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTION

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR CENTRAL EAST REGION

Whereas on March 23rd, 2005, by resolution in March 2005, York Regional Council requested that the Attorney General immediately appoint 11 new Justices of the Peace for the Central East Region;

And Whereas despite the March 23rd resolution, York Region did not receive any of the additional nine Justices of the Peace appointed in 2006;

And Whereas now in 2007 because of the growth in the Region and retirements, the number of new Justices of the Peace required for York Central Region is 14;

And Whereas the possibility of the Justice of the Peace not being present is leading to more individuals choosing to go to court in hopes of avoiding a conviction;

And Whereas the courts were closed for 60 days in 2006 due to Justices' holidays, courses and sick time which resulted in diminished available court time;

And Whereas the City of Vaughan in 2006 was impacted by the shortage of Justices of the Peace and court time by having approximately 60 cases either withdrawn or re-summonsed, resulting in a significant loss of staff resource hours;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Vaughan Council strongly urge the Attorney General to re-consider York Regional Council's earlier request for the appointment of additional Justices of the Peace to service Central East Region and immediately appoint an additional 14 Justices of the Peace.

Resolution for Endorsement by the GTAH Mayors and Chairs Group

Whereas all the GTA Provincial Offences Courts are suffering chronic and increasing backlogs of cases due to the shortage of Justices of the Peace and the consequent cancellation of scheduled court days;

Whereas municipally funded court facilities are sitting empty due to the shortage of Justices of the Peace and therefore not generating revenue from fines

Whereas thousands of POA cases are being withdrawn and thousands of others in jeopardy due to unseemly delays in prosecution

Whereas Bill 14 has been passed allowing the Province to immediately appoint additional Justices of the Peace (JPs),

Whereas the delivery of POA justice services is partnership between the municipalities and the Province and the Province is currently not living up to its obligations as a partner,

And whereas only the Province can resolve this shortage and restore public confidence in the justice system by appointing a significant number of new JPs,

Therefore be it resolved that the GTAH Mayors and Chairs request that:

- 1) the Attorney General immediately appoint sufficient Justices of the Peace to resolve the shortage
- 2) The Attorney General work with Ontario's Minister of Finance to identify new resources to address the Justice of the Peace shortage in the upcoming 2007/08 Provincial Budget
- 3) the Province begin appointing and assigning new per diem JP's in all GTA regions immediately to serve until full-time justices can be appointed and assigned
- 4) The Attorney General develop a replacement strategy for future JP retirements so that further shortages do not occur; and
- 5) The Province immediately establish a Review Committee for purposes of dispute resolution in accordance with the MOU governing the POA court function ;

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Attorney General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Community Safety, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Municipal Section of the Ontario Bar Association, Chief Justice Lennox, and Justice Ebbs, Ontario Court of Justice, Municipal Court Managers' Association, Prosecutors' Association of Ontario, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police