

A Better Richmond Hill

A registered third-party advertiser under the *Municipal Elections Act (Ontario)*
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WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED

A Better Richmond Hill will continue with our peaceful rally this Saturday Oct 15

Oct 13, 2022

Dear Richmond Hill Residents,

We would like your support by attending an election rally at Yonge and 16th Avenue this Saturday, October 15th, from 1:30pm to 4pm in protest against the conduct of three Richmond Hill councillors: Carmine Perrelli, Greg Beros, and Tom Muench. This letter will explain why your presence is important.

In 2021, Richmond Hill ranked 32nd out of 32 in the Ontario Municipal Democracy Index. In the opinion of many residents who carefully watch Richmond Hill City Council, the reason for this poor rating was, in part, the unacceptable behaviour of three city council members: Regional Councillor Carmine Perrelli, Ward 1 Councillor Greg Beros, and Ward 2 Councillor Tom Muench. Their records have been well documented by the Richmond Hill Council Accountability Group (CAG), a non-profit residents group and you can read the detailed and well-attributed historical reports for each of them on the CAG website (www.cagrighmondhill.com).

Of particular note is the behaviour of Mr. Perrelli who currently has two court proceedings against the City seeking in excess of \$3 million. These proceedings also name several members of city staff, including the city's solicitor, head of human resources, and city clerk, plus its past city manager, and five members of council: Mayor David West, Regional Councillor Joe DiPaolo, and Local Councillors Godwin Chan, Raika Sheppard, and Karen Cilevitz. Note also that Mr. Perrelli is the subject of other legal claims including a \$3.5 million lawsuit by the family of a boy who died while in the foster care of a for-profit home run by Mr. Perrelli.

Frustrated by the dysfunction of Council, a group of residents formed A Better Richmond Hill (ABRH) and registered it as an official third-party advertiser for the election. Our objective has always been to clean up the Council.

On Saturday October 8, 2021, we held an election rally at Yonge St and North Lake Rd. in Oak Ridges, urging residents to vote out the three council members mentioned. We widely advertised the location and notified the police we would be holding the rally.

When we arrived, we were quickly overwhelmed by another rally that claimed they were supporting farmers protesting stormwater fees. They were targeting the five councillors Mr. Perrelli is suing. The so-called "farmers" group is not a registered non-profit, as is ABRH. It also did not inform the police that their protest would be taking place, as did ABRH. The only conclusion one could draw from their presence was that they were disruptive of the ABRH event. Furthermore, at the event Councillor

Tom Muench was seen on foot leading a traffic-disrupting convoy down Yonge Street, Regional Councillor Perrelli was spotted sitting in a dark window tinted SUV overlooking the proceedings, and Mr. Perrelli's son was an active participant.

A few points of note are warranted:

- The event was organized by Richmond Hill developer David Frattaroli, not a farmer.
- According to StatsCAN 2016 Census data, Richmond Hill only employed 70 people work in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting.
- The only farmer we found at the event was Paul Donar, who has been lobbying to have his farm lands in north Richmond Hill re-zoned from rural to urban, a latent commercial objective.
- The farmer's message was that Mayor David West had declared "War on Farmers." No such declaration had been made, and in fact, the issue appeared to be purposely manufactured. The issue involved high stormwater charges that council unanimously voted on and sent back to Richmond Hill staff to review.
- Prior to the ABRH rally, we were informed by the Richmond Hill Professional Fire Fighters Association (RHPFFA) that they had been instructed not to attend our rally.
- Sheila Wang, the Richmond Hill Liberal reporter who was invited to cover the ABRH rally, was aggressively interviewed at the rally by David Menzies of Rebel Media. The Editor of the Richmond Hill Liberal, Ted McFadden, emailed to confirm his decision not to have Ms. Wang attend our Oct 15 rally, as her safety could not be guaranteed and for fear of further harassment.
- Furthermore, ABRH's Facebook page, our main channel for disseminating campaign information to the public, was attacked from Quebec last week. Our password was cracked but the hack failed as we were using two-factor authorization login (password + mobile verification code).
- We have also received (unverified) stories of intimidation and withdrawal from the residents and organizations that support us.

This is unacceptable. As Canadians, we are all concerned as democracy is attacked south of the border, and must guard against similar tactics working up here too.

"All that it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing."

Therefore, regardless of what happens, **A Better Richmond Hill** will continue with our peaceful rally this coming weekend. We will not be intimidated. We ask for the good people of Richmond Hill who are willing to fight for our democracy to show their bravery and join us on Saturday October 15th at Yonge and 16th Avenue.

Thank you.

A Better Richmond Hill

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