

1. C-2025-184

Correspondence dated October 3, 2025 from the City of Pickering to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) respecting a resolution of support for the principles of the Elect Respect pledge.

2. C-2025-185

Correspondence dated September 25, 2025 from the Town of Aurora to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) respecting a resolution of support for the principles of the Elect Respect pledge.

Sent by Email

October 3, 2025

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3
resolutions@fcm.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
155 University Ave, Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7
resolutions@amo.on.ca

Subject: Elect Respect

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on September 29, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, democracy is strengthened when all individuals can participate fully, safely, and without discrimination, contributing to the well-being of their communities;

And Whereas, democratic discourse and respectful debate are under pressure across all levels of government, including municipal councils in Ontario;

And Whereas, elected officials are increasingly facing harassment, threats, intimidation, and unsafe work environments, which undermine personal safety, deter civic participation, and erode public confidence in democratic institutions;

And Whereas, social media platforms, while enabling legitimate discourse, have also amplified abusive, discriminatory, or threatening behaviour, disproportionately affecting women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities, discouraging many from seeking or remaining in public office;

And Whereas, freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy and must be safeguarded, even as we combat unlawful harassment, violence, and hate;

And Whereas, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified troubling trends in declining voter turnout and a reduction in candidate participation at the municipal level;

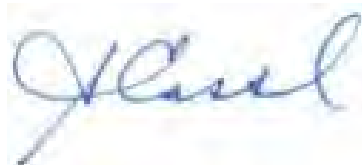
And Whereas, grassroots and national initiatives such as Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.) campaign and the Parliamentary Civility Pledge led by the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians, demonstrate a growing commitment to fostering respectful, safe, and inclusive environments in political life;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation for the City of Pickering:

1. Supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:
 - Treat all persons with dignity and respect in public, private, and online spaces;
 - Reject and call out harassment, threats, unlawful discrimination, and personal abuse;
 - Focus public debate on policies and ideas, rather than personal attacks or identity-based commentary;
 - Build a culture of safety and inclusion, ensuring that individuals of all genders, identities, backgrounds, races, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities feel empowered to run for and serve in public office;
 - Call on relevant authorities to investigate and respond to threats or harassment directed at elected officials, in accordance with applicable laws;
 - Model accountability and integrity by holding ourselves and one another to clear, transparent, and legally grounded standards of conduct;
 - Defend freedom of expression while actively opposing abuse and intimidation in all forms;
2. Encourages elected officials, political organizations, municipalities, and members of the public to sign and support the Elect Respect pledge by visiting: electrespect.ca; and,
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs), Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), all municipalities in Ontario, Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.), and Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Cassel', is positioned above the printed name.

Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Ontario's Big City Mayors
 Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs)
 Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS)
 Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
 All Municipalities in Ontario
 Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.)
 Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians

 Chief Administrative Officer



Legislative Services
Michael de Rond
905-726-4771
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

Received October 7, 2025
C-2025-185

September 25, 2025

Delivered by email

resolutions@amo.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
155 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 23, 2025

Member Motion 8.9.1 - Councillor Gilliland; Re: Elect Respect Campaign Support

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 23, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas a healthy democracy thrives when all individuals can participate safely, equitably, and meaningfully in public life; and

Whereas Aurora, like many municipalities across Ontario, is witnessing an erosion of civil discourse and growing hostility in the political arena, both in person and online; and

Whereas elected officials at all levels, particularly women and those from equity-deserving communities, are experiencing increased threats, harassment, and toxic engagement that deter civic participation; and

Whereas social media platforms, while powerful tools for engagement, have contributed to a climate of disrespect and polarization that discourages individuals from seeking or maintaining public office; and

Whereas inclusive and respectful governance results in better decision-making and stronger representation, especially when voices of diverse genders, identities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities are present at municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), through its Healthy Democracy Project, has identified troubling trends of voter apathy and a declining interest in running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, a group of female elected officials from Halton formed H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives), launching the Elect Respect campaign to advocate for respectful political engagement and safe, inclusive workplaces; and

Whereas on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a national Parliamentary Civility Pledge, inspired by the work of H.E.R., to promote respectful conduct among elected officials;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora Council endorses the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

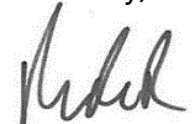
- **Treating all individuals with respect in every setting; public, private, and digital;**
- **Speaking out against harassment, intimidation, and personal attacks;**
- **Keeping debate focused on ideas and public policy, not individuals;**
- **Fostering an environment where people of all backgrounds feel safe and supported in seeking and holding public office;**
- **Urging relevant authorities to ensure the safety and protection of elected officials facing threats or abuse;**
- **Demonstrating leadership through integrity, accountability, and mutual respect among colleagues and constituents; and**

2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora encourages other municipalities, elected officials, organizations, and residents to support the Elect Respect initiative and sign the pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), York Region, York Regional Police, and all Ontario municipalities.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Michael de Rond

Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Sandra Cobena, MP Newmarket—Aurora
Costas Menegakis, MP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
The Regional Municipality of York
York Regional Police
All Ontario Municipalities



8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 9, 2025

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 23, 2025, and the Audit Committee Meeting Report of June 24, 2025 (Item 9), be received and the recommendations carried by the Committees approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.2.2, 8.5.2, and 8.7.1, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Absent (1): Councillor Gaertner

Carried (6 to 0)

8.9 Member Motions

8.9.1 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Elect Respect Campaign Support

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Whereas elected officials at all levels, particularly women and those from equity-deserving communities, are experiencing increased threats, harassment, and toxic engagement that deter civic participation; and

Whereas social media platforms, while powerful tools for engagement, have contributed to a climate of disrespect and polarization that discourages individuals from seeking or maintaining public office; and

Whereas inclusive and respectful governance results in better decision-making and stronger representation, especially when

voices of diverse genders, identities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities are present at municipal council tables; and

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Whereas in 2024, a group of female elected officials from Halton formed H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives), launching the Elect Respect campaign to advocate for respectful political engagement and safe, inclusive workplaces; and

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Carried