



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	September 26, 2025 10:46 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

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

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

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

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.

Carried