



Legislative Services
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Town of Aurora
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May 25, 2017

The Hon. Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
MPP Mississauga South
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Delivered by email to:
csousa.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Dear Mr. Sousa:

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of February 28, 2017, Re: Motion for Which Notice Has Been Given, Councillor Mrakas, Re: Property Tax Vacancy Rebates

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on February 28, 2017, and in this regard Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the province of Ontario mandates under Section 364 of the *Municipal Act*, that every local municipality shall have a program to provide property tax rebates in respect to vacant portions of buildings that are in the commercial or industrial classes; and

Whereas the 2016 Provincial Budget announced a legislative framework to facilitate increased municipal flexibility with providing municipalities broad flexibility for 2017 and future years to tailor the vacant unit tax rebate to reflect community needs and circumstances; and

Whereas this vacant unit tax rebate may encourage some property owners to keep commercial and industrial buildings empty; and

Whereas unoccupied retail is not good for the overall health of the municipality; and

Whereas boarded-up stores impact on the ability to revitalize main streets; and


Whereas the repeal of the vacant unit tax rebate will contribute to the healthy development of the downtown core; and

Whereas the repeal of the vacant unit tax rebate would support the varied efforts of the Town in bringing renewal to our downtown promenade and makes financial sense for the Town;

1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora seek to repeal the vacant unit tax rebate; and**
2. **Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to report back to Council after the matter of the vacant unit tax rebate has been addressed by the Region; and**
3. **Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Minister of Finance to request the necessary regulatory authority using the flexibility provided in the legislative framework to repeal the vacancy tax rebate; and**
4. **Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Council of The Regional Municipality of York and all area municipalities to advise of Council's interest in seeking abolishment of the vacant unit rebates provisions.**

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

Yours sincerely,


for Samantha Yew

Deputy Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

Copy: All York Region Municipalities