October 22, 2013

Rose Caterini
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Rose Caterini,

Re: Other Business Item by Councillor Perrelli regarding Freedom of Expression and Religion in Public Places in the Province of Ontario

Richmond Hill Town Council, at its meeting on October 15, 2013, approved the following resolution:

"WHEREAS the Town of Richmond Hill has a long history of diversity and religious inclusivity and acceptance;

WHEREAS it is the belief of Richmond Hill Council that municipalities play an important role as an order of government in the development of Ontario’s reputation as a free and open, pluralistic society;

WHEREAS on September 19, 2013 the Ontario Legislature unanimously endorsed York Centre MPP Monte Kwinter’s motion "That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Ontario should oppose any legislation that would restrict or prohibit people’s freedom of expression and religion in public places and affirm that Ontario greatly values our diverse population and the social, cultural and economic contributions they make to help our society thrive";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Richmond Hill endorse the motion above and further instruct the Clerk to communicate this to the Councils of all GTHA municipalities and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario so that they may do the same;

FURTHER, that the Clerk communicate the endorsement to all provincial first ministers including the Prime Minister of Canada."

In accordance with Council’s directive, the foregoing Council resolution in this regard has been forwarded to your attention.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Clerk at 905-771-8800.

Sincerely,

Donna L. McLarty
Town Clerk