



Legislative Services  
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Town of Aurora  
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September 28, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 26, 2023  
Motion 10.4 - Councillor Weese; Re: Aurora Council Opposition to Strong Mayor  
Powers in Aurora**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 26, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas the Head of Council is required to confirm in writing his commitment to meet a municipal housing target by October 15, 2023, in order to receive Strong Mayor Powers; and**

**Whereas the municipality is required to submit a formal housing pledge which will outline how the municipality plans to meet the housing target by December 15, 2023; and**

**Whereas Strong Mayor Powers will result in the Head of Council being granted powers such as:**

- **Choosing to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer;**
- **Hiring certain municipal department heads and establishing and re- organizing departments;**
- **Creating committees of council, assigning their functions, and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council;**
- **Proposing the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate head of council veto and council override process;**
- **Vetoing certain by-laws if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority;**

- **Bringing forward matters for council consideration if the head of council is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority; and**

**Whereas these Strong Mayor Powers undermine democratic processes executed through municipal elections; and**

**Whereas Strong Mayor Powers may also violate by-laws established in Aurora that provides accepted and legal procedures for governance; and**

**Whereas Aurora Town Council recognizes the important role each Councillor provides the residents in their Ward and the community-at-large;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That the Aurora Town Council opposes Strong Mayor Powers provided to the Head of Council; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That this approved Motion is to be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Paul Calandra; the Regional Municipality of York; and each of the Municipalities in Ontario.**

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

Yours sincerely,



**Michael de Rond**

Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York  
All Ontario Municipalities



## 10. Motions

### 10.4 Councillor Weese; Re: Aurora Council Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers in Aurora

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

Whereas the Head of Council is required to confirm in writing his commitment to meet a municipal housing target by October 15, 2023, in order to receive Strong Mayor Powers; and

Whereas the municipality is required to submit a formal housing pledge which will outline how the municipality plans to meet the housing target by December 15, 2023; and

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- Bringing forward matters for council consideration if the head of council is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority; and

Whereas these Strong Mayor Powers undermine democratic processes executed through municipal elections; and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers may also violate by-laws established in Aurora that provides accepted and legal procedures for governance; and

Whereas Aurora Town Council recognizes the important role each Councillor provides the residents in their Ward and the community-at-large;

1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That the Aurora Town Council opposes Strong Mayor Powers provided to the Head of Council; and
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Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (4 to 3)**