



Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association (AHHRA)
'Residents Caring for our Community'

PRESS RELEASE

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****Residents Express Deep Disappointment Following Council Vote Against
Independent Auditor General for the City of Mississauga****

Mississauga, ON — March 4th, 2026

Members of the local residents' community are expressing strong disappointment following today's decision by the City of Mississauga's General Committee to reject the proposal to hire an independent, external Auditor General.

For months, residents across the City have participated in 2026 budget meetings, submitted written comments, and appeared before Council to voice support for an independent oversight function. At today's General Committee meeting alone, approximately 11 deputations were made by residents, letters were submitted and several Mississauga Residents' Associations, many bringing thoughtful research, professional experience, and genuine concern about fiscal accountability. Councillors also mentioned receiving multiple emails from concerned taxpayers all supporting an Independent Auditor General for the City.

Despite this unprecedented level of civic participation, the Council ultimately voted against establishing an Independent Auditor General. Instead, a motion was introduced to hire two internal Auditor employees to conduct a "Value-for-Money" audit within the city administration at a cost of @ \$371,000.

Residents are troubled by the message this sends.

When dozens of engaged citizens come forward to speak on an issue of financial accountability, they expect to be heard—not dismissed as uninformed or characterized by Mayor Parrish as attending the meeting to 'complain'. Speakers outlined how Independent Auditor Generals operate successfully in other municipalities and governments, providing transparent oversight that strengthens public trust.

Choosing an internal auditing approach instead raises concerns about independence and credibility. Internal staff, no matter how capable, ultimately report within the same organizational structure they are expected to review. Independent oversight exists precisely to avoid this conflict.

Today's decision also risks undermining public confidence in municipal governance. When residents invest their time to participate in the democratic process, only to be told—implicitly or explicitly—that elected officials know better, it discourages the very civic engagement that healthy local democracy depends on.

Residents are not asking for special treatment. They are asking for the same standard of financial oversight that exists in many other jurisdictions: an independent office empowered to examine spending, identify inefficiencies, and ensure taxpayers receive value for money.

The hundreds of residents who follow this issue closely—and the dozen who spoke publicly today—deserve more than a dismissal of their concerns.

Residents' groups will continue to advocate for stronger financial oversight and greater transparency at City Hall. Accountability is not a partisan issue, nor is it a political luxury. It is a basic expectation of responsible government.

“Mississauga manages billions of dollars but lacks an independent Auditor General. Oversight shouldn't be optional,” states Kim Pines, Budget Review Committee, Applewood Hills and Heights Residents' Association.

As taxpayers and community members, residents will continue to watch this issue closely and encourage Council to reconsider an independent Auditor General for the City of Mississauga in the future.

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