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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor Thompson

Re: Exemption of Golf Courses from the Clean Communities By-law for Grass Maintenance

To: Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: March 10, 2026

Whereas the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, authorizes municipalities to pass by-laws respecting the health, safety, and well-being of persons and the maintenance and regulation of property standards; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora enacted the Clean Communities By-law to establish clear, consistent, and enforceable standards for property maintenance throughout the municipality; and

Whereas standards for grass and yard maintenance are intended to reduce pests and vermin, ensure consistent community appearance, and prevent selective or inconsistent enforcement practices; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora contains several fully operational golf courses, many of which abut and share divisional property lines with residential properties within Aurora and neighbouring municipalities; and

Whereas golf courses are highly specialized land uses that require agronomic turf management practices distinct from residential or general commercial properties in order to maintain safe, functional, and environmentally managed playing surfaces; and

Whereas golf courses in Ontario are already subject to a comprehensive provincial regulatory framework, including exemptions under the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act and compliance requirements under Ontario Regulation 63/09 of the *Pesticides Act*; and

Whereas applying standard grass height and yard maintenance provisions of the Clean Communities By-law to golf courses may create operational conflicts and unintended enforcement challenges without advancing the original intent of the by-law;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Town staff be directed to prepare and bring forward a by-law amendment to the Clean Communities By-law to establish a

permanent exemption for fully operational golf courses, limited solely to grass and turf maintenance standards; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That the exemption apply only to lands actively used or maintained as part of an operational golf course, and not to vacant, surplus, or non-golf-related lands.