TOM MRAKAS
MAYOR

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MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON YORK REGION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

"I am always open to discussing how we can create more efficiencies in regional government and what a new governance structure in York Region could potentially look like.

The reality is that we need to continue to find more efficiencies and savings, and to get things done faster, including building more housing, and strengthening the way we deliver some services.

But I want to be very clear: I strongly oppose the amalgamation of York Region into a single-tier megacity, which Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti called for in a statement he released earlier today. It is quite disappointing that Mayor Scarpitti made such a statement – on such a complex issue that has a significant impact on peoples' lives – before reaching out to all York Region mayors to better understand their perspectives.

York Region municipalities are very distinct communities, spanning a large geographic area. We have distinct identities, histories, cultures, and priorities. We know our residents because we are residents, and Aurora Town Council and Town staff have spent decades building relationships and continually improving the way we respond to the needs of our community. The decisions we make reflect the priorities of our residents, particularly when it comes to local planning issues, recreation, and arts and culture in our town.

Aurora also greatly benefits from having many services and programs delivered by a regional government, while still having autonomy over important decisions on how we build our community. I have my own thoughts on how our regional government could potentially be restructured to strengthen service delivery, and I will be bringing those ideas forward shortly.

I look forward to having more discussions with my fellow mayors and the province on how we can better streamline regional government, save money for taxpayers, and strengthen our services and improve our processes."