

Pickering News Advertiser

Pickering asks MPAC to freeze assessments

Councillors say inflated housing market impacting property assessments

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PICKERING — Pickering council is asking the Province of Ontario and the Municipal Property Assessment Corp. to put a freeze on any and all future assessments until the market conditions stabilize.

The motion, brought forward by Ward 1 city Coun. Maurice Brenner and Ward 2 regional Coun. Bill McLean, also asks the province and MPAC to review the unfairness of the current assessment, and to place a moratorium on its phasing of increases in 2019 and 2020.

Council approved the motion unanimously at its most recent meeting.

Brenner explained that, for many years, the actual market values approach used by MPAC has failed, caused by the housing boom and inflated housing sales. He said residents are being inappropriately taxed based on inflated values that have little to no relevance on actual values.

“We’ve heard there’s been changes in the market conditions since the government has stepped in at both levels, and less product is available, and at some point, it will level out. But until that happens, the impact on our residents has been phenomenal and negative, in terms of people struggling,” said Brenner.

He noted this is out of the City of Pickering's authority, "but people look at us for fairness."

McLean, also a real estate agent, noted the housing market has calmed down but is still shaky.