



TOWN OF AJAX
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Attorney General Doug Downey
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
11th Floor
720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9
doug.downey@pc.ola.org

Sent by E-Mail

May 21, 2025

Re: Judicial Capacity and Disclosure Timelines

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held on May 20, 2025:

Whereas many judicial cases in Ontario are dismissed due to structural gaps in the justice system; and,

Whereas the majority of criminal cases in the province have ended with charges being withdrawn, stayed, dismissed, or discharged before a decision at trial since 2020; and,

Whereas in 2022-23, the latest fiscal year of data available, 56 percent of criminal cases ended with charges being withdrawn, stayed, dismissed, or discharged, a 14 percent increase since 2013-2014, when guilty decisions still made up most outcomes; and,

Whereas without action to address judicial capacity and disclosure timelines from the Ontario government and the Ministry of the Attorney General, cases will continue to be dismissed; and,

Whereas the combination of the R v. Jordan precedent and increasingly complex investigations has put police forces and courts under immense pressure, leading to case dismissals due to delays; and,

Whereas the lead time imposed by the Ministry of the Attorney General has added additional pressure on existing resources, further increasing delays; and,

Whereas the biggest challenge remains initial disclosure, where incomplete materials force additional requests from Crown and Defence, triggering further bottlenecks and delays throughout the process; and,

Whereas on April 15, 2024, Ajax Council passed a motion, Increasing the Number of Judges in Ontario, and on April 11, 2025, Ontario Big City Mayors passed a motion, Judicial Capacity and Disclosure Timelines, both calling for additional resources for Ontario's overwhelmed court system; and,

Whereas on April 28, 2025, Attorney General Doug Downey announced the addition of 17 new judges to the Ontario Court of Justice to help the court keep pace with the growing number of cases and to address some of the backlog; and,

Whereas the addition of 17 new judges is a strong step in the right direction, the pressure from the Ministry of Attorney General's requirements is putting police forces in a strenuous position;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

1. Ajax Council asks the Ontario government to action the following:
 - Expand judicial capacity, including Crown attorneys and court staffs;
 - Review disclosure timelines;
 - Explore technology-driven solutions to help resolve the issue of judicial capacity and disclosure timelines; and
2. A copy of this motion be sent to Attorney General Doug Downey, Ajax MPP Rob Cerjanec, Durham Police Chief Peter Moreira, the Regional Municipality of Durham, all lower-tier Durham Region Municipalities, and the Ontario Big City Mayors.

CARRIED

If you require further information please contact me at 365-885-6983 or Thomas.street@ajax.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'TS' or a stylized 'T' and 'S'.

Thomas Street
Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: Mayor S. Collier
Regional Councillor S. Lee
Rob Cerjanec, MPP for Ajax
Durham Police Chief Peter Moreira
The Regional Municipality of Durham
All lower-tier Durham Region Municipalities
Ontario Big City Mayors