

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – MAY 12, 2020

COMMUNICATIONS

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Item

C1. Presentation material.

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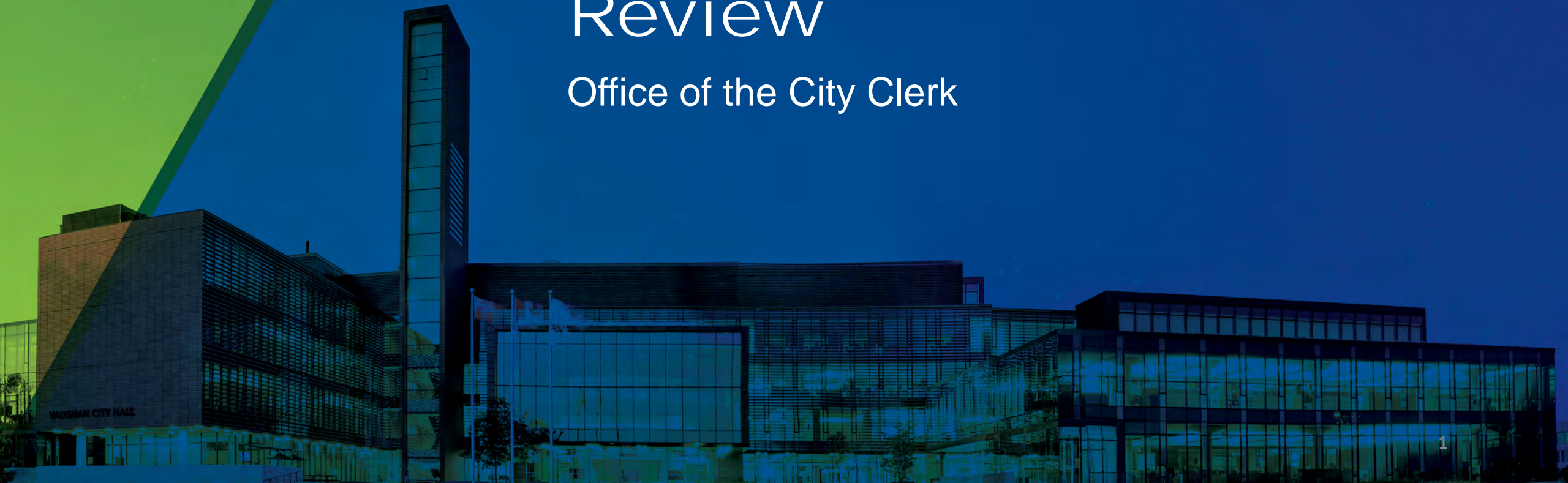
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Ward Boundary & Council Composition Review

Office of the City Clerk



Background

- Current 9 member Council composition has been in place since the 2003-2006 Term of Council, when the third local and regional councillor seat took effect
- The City's existing ward boundaries were established by order of the OMB in 2009, consisting of five wards
- The last Ward Boundary Review was conducted in 2016, Council did not approve any changes at that time due to ongoing deliberation at the Region to add another Local and Regional Councillor for Vaughan

Background

- As a result of population growth over the last 10 years, there is a growing deviation between the population of some of the City's five wards
- Greater deviation in population impacts the principle of effective representation by population which underpins the design and composition of a ward system
- The next slides detail the projected population growth through 2030, and the growth in the electoral population by ward between the 2014 and 2018 Municipal Elections

Forecast Population by Current Ward

Ward	2014	2018	2022	2026	2030
Ward 1	68,200	75,200	84,700	96,100	117,600
Ward 2	56,800	59,100	62,100	64,200	65,100
Ward 3	65,700	70,300	74,500	78,300	79,400
Ward 4	51,900	58,400	63,800	70,700	81,800
Ward 5	71,300	72,600	73,000	74,100	75,200
Average	62,800	67,100	71,600	76,700	83,800

Source: 2016 Ward Boundary Review Final Report; Data from Statistics Canada Census plus the estimated Census Net Under-coverage

Electoral Population Growth

Ward	2014 Electors	2018 Electors	Growth	2018 Total Electors Represented	2018 Deviation from Average
Ward 1	38,287	45,439	18.68%	22%	+11.61%
Ward 2	35,834	38,890	8.53%	19%	-3.93%
Ward 3	35,636	42,522	19.32%	21%	+4.99%
Ward 4	19,477	28,580	46.74%	14%	-34.39%
Ward 5	44,501	46,823	5.22%	23%	+14.60%
Average	34,747	40,451	15.17%	-	-

Source: VoterView Data 2014-2018

Analysis

- Growing deviation in the population presents a situation which requires action to ensure effective representation for the people of Vaughan
- Based on current voter data from the 2018 Municipal Election, the electoral population of each Ward varies widely from 28,580 to 46,823
- This can be addressed through a Ward Boundary, and a Council Composition Review

Analysis

- A Ward Boundary Review would assess the various demographic and geographics considerations for the City and propose changes to the existing Ward boundaries
- A Council Composition Review would undertake to assess whether the current composition of Vaughan Council is appropriate, including providing recommendations on the number and allocation of councillors (i.e. increase number of local councillors, propose regional councillors assigned by ward, etc.)

Analysis

- A Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review would provide an opportunity to assess both the appropriate number of wards and their boundaries for the City as well as review the current composition of Council
- A Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review would be governed by the guiding legal principles established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Carter Case

Analysis

Carter Case principles include:

- **Representation by population:** Ensuring people are comparatively represented on Council, giving an equal voice, which is understood to be within +/-25% maximum deviation for the average ward population in urban areas.
- **Consideration of current and future population trends:** Including changes in population from growth and development, aging communities, etc.

Analysis

- **Consideration of physical and natural boundaries:** Including changes the way in which manmade and natural features such as highways, railways, river valleys, and farmland shape the community.
- **Consideration of communities of interest:** Including settlement patterns and existing historical communities in the context of the broader municipality.

Analysis

- **Effective representation:** The overall objective of a ward boundary review, which seeks to establish fair and equitable representation based on the principles outlined above.

Proposed Timeline



Options

Council has three primary options to consider in addressing the matter of ward boundaries and council composition:

1. **Conduct a Ward Boundary Review:** Contracting expert consultants to recommend changes to existing ward boundaries
2. **Conduct a Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review:** In addition to the ward boundary detailed in Option 1, a Council Composition Review would also be conducted by the consultants with a detailed assessment of the appropriate number of councillors and the structure of Vaughan Council with consideration to comparator municipalities.

Options

- 3. Not proceeding with a Ward Boundary Review at this time:** The existing five wards would be retained with the ward boundaries as established in the 2009 Board Order. The current nine-member Council would be retained in its current state (subject to the potential addition of a Local and Regional Councillor as a result of the ongoing Regional Council Composition Review.)

Conclusion

- Staff are seeking Council direction on whether to conduct a Ward Boundary Review, Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, or No Review
- A capital budget of \$125,000.00 from the Election Reserve has been provided for in the 2020 Budget to support the completion of a Ward Boundary Review
- Potential impacts from the York Region Council Composition Review will be captured in the City of Vaughan's own Review

Conclusion

- Staff expect a review to be completed by Q1 2021 to provide sufficient time for a by-law to come into effect and any potential appeals to be addressed
- The new ward boundaries and any changes to the composition of Vaughan Council would come into effect for the 2022 Municipal Election