

Ready, Resilient and Resourceful Committee Report

DATE: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS: TWO-YEAR STRATEGIC
REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS**

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide a strategic review of the City of Vaughan's response efforts to the global COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years and to further inform how the administration will advance Council-approved city-building initiatives moving forward.

Report Highlights

- Through innovation, responsible fiscal management and a genuine commitment to delivering quality public services, the City is delivering Service Excellence to the people and businesses of the community despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.
- Responsible fiscal management and competitive tax rates remain critical to Vaughan's response to supporting residents and businesses throughout the declared state of emergency to help attract investment and advance critical city-building projects.
- The City's existing governance structure is well placed to monitor and respond to any emerging issues resulting from the pandemic. For these reasons, there no longer remains a need for a separate Council committee dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 response efforts.
- To align with the provincial re-opening plan, the City's Emergency Measures By-law 037-2020 should be amended.

Recommendations

1. That the Ready, Resilient and Resourceful (RRR) Committee concludes, with the final RRR Committee taking place on March 29, 2022;
2. That future COVID-19 related staff reports, communications, updates and public deputations take place at meetings of the Committee of the Whole or Council; and
3. That By-law 037-2020 be amended to delete Section 7.0 (Prohibitions) and to amend section 18.0 (Force and Effect) such that the By-law be repealed on the same day the Head of Council terminates its declaration of a state of emergency.

Background

March 2020: Vaughan is the first Ontario city to declare a state of emergency

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in response to COVID-19. Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council, and the City's administration, responded to this news by taking decisive action to keep people safe and the local economy strong. On March 17, Vaughan became the first Ontario city and the first municipality in York Region to declare a state of emergency. That same day, Council endorsed the Vaughan Business Action Plan, which included temporary measures to safeguard the local economy and protect businesses and consumers.

May 2020: the Ready, Resilient and Resourceful Committee of Council is established

In May 2020, Vaughan Council unanimously endorsed Mayor Bevilacqua's Member's Resolution to establish the Ready, Resilient and Resourceful (RRR) Committee of Council. The mandate of the RRR Committee is to help further co-ordinate the City's COVID-19 response efforts, advance city-building initiatives, and provide all Councillors, citizens and critical stakeholders with a public forum to engage critical stakeholders and residents directly.

On June 23, 2020, the inaugural meeting of the RRR Committee took place. The agenda included presentations from then York Regional Medical Officer of Health Dr. Karim Kurji, York Regional Police and the Ontario and Vaughan and Chambers of Commerce, of note, Rocco Rossi, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Staff reports included COVID-19 updates related to city-building in general and emergency operations and finance more specifically. The Vaughan Business Resilience Plan was also presented as part of the second phase of the City's economic development response efforts to COVID-19. Subsequent meetings of the RRR Committee took place in September 2020, March 2021 and May 2021.

The RRR Committee leverages the City's existing governance structures that ensure community participation and effective dissemination of information to all interested parties.

March 2022: two years since the WHO declared a global pandemic because of COVID-19, Vaughan demonstrates that city-building continues to thrive.

March 2022 marks two years since the WHO declared a global pandemic in response to COVID-19. During this period, members of the administration continue to successfully advance Council-approved city-building priorities. The City's successes have been positively reported on by media, namely, an April 15, 2020, article in *The Toronto Star* which says, "Vaughan council has been out-front in how it has dealt with the virus. It was one of the first to declare a state of emergency, shut down its parks, and now, move its Canada Day party online, in the hope that a preventative approach would slow the spread."

Before COVID-19, staff began developing an alternative workplace arrangement (AWA) framework. The AWA framework includes policy and procedures which allow employees to work remotely, which can lead to increases in productivity, retention and cost savings. The City enhanced remote access capabilities to help employees establish remote offices, collaborate with colleagues and complete work to ensure high levels of productivity. Every department has a business continuity plan that is periodically reviewed, updated and implemented.

Electronic-participation Committee of the Whole, Council and task force meetings keep City business moving forward.

The City continues to manage the evolving global COVID-19 pandemic and introduce precautionary measures to further encourage physical distancing practices and keep citizens and staff safe. In support of this direction, Mayor Bevilacqua and Members of Council continue to hold electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council meetings to move important City business forward.

The City held the first electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council meetings on March 30, 2020. Since then, there have been 394 electronic-participation meetings (including Council, Committee, task forces, ad hoc and statutory committee meetings). In October 2020, Council voted to establish the Audit Committee, which also meets virtually and works to enhance further the City's commitment to accountability and good governance.

The City is reinvigorating traditional services to deliver on the Corporation's mission of citizens first through Service Excellence.

Although the City of Vaughan's physical doors remain closed in response to COVID-19, city-building has not slowed down. Essential services continue uninterrupted and departments across the organization have introduced or enhanced virtual service offerings to provide new, efficient and streamlined experiences for residents and businesses. By reinvigorating traditional services, enhancing digital platforms and modifying in-person programs, the City is delivering Service Excellence – virtually – throughout the global pandemic. Below is an update on some municipal programs and services that have been adapted or introduced.

Waste Collection:

- **Garbage tags:** Residents can purchase garbage tags and exchange a broken City bin through Service Vaughan at vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan.
- **Recycle Coach app:** Download the free app for complete waste and recycling information and customized notifications.
- **Waste-less Virtual Visit:** For one-on-one video coaching on how to divert more materials into blue boxes and green bins, book a 20-minute virtual session by calling Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281.
- **Quick Response (QR) Codes:** Residents can alert staff about full garbage cans in some City parks by scanning a QR code.
- **What Goes Where?:** The City's online sorting tool to help determine how to dispose of an item is available at vaughan.ca/waste.

Digital Permits:

- **Building permits:** Citizens and building industry professionals can apply, track and pay for permits online at vaughan.ca/PermitPortal.
- **Engineering permits:** Permits for pools, grading for sheds, home additions and more can now be submitted and approved through vaughan.ca/DEPermits.
- **Planning applications:** The City has developed a process to arrange Pre-Application Consultation meetings and to receive planning applications digitally. Visit vaughan.ca to view the application process.

Recreation Services

- **Virtual Recreation programs:** As an alternative to in-person programs, City instructors live-streamed popular recreational programs remotely via Zoom for all ages throughout the pandemic, including virtual P.A. Day programming and virtual parties/playdates for children. Select virtual programs, specifically professional development and leadership programs for youth, continue to be offered virtually.

- **Virtual fitness classes:** Select fitness classes continue to be live-streamed via Zoom, free to Vaughan Fitness members. Classes include yoga, total body conditioning, barre, HIIT, pilates and Zumba. Pre-registration is required at vaughan.perfectmind.com. Free, full-length fitness classes (40 to 60 minutes long) are also streamed on the recvaughan YouTube channel.
- **Online registration at vaughan.perfectmind.com:** Registration for recreation and aquatic programs has been transitioned online with the 2021 launch of a new online recreation registration system, PerfectMind. Pre-payment and pre-registration for recreational drop-in activities is also available for the convenience, one week in advance of the scheduled activity.
- **Online membership sales at vaughan.perfectmind.com:** Select memberships and multi-visit passes to recreational drop-in activities at Vaughan community centres can now be purchased online at vaughan.perfectmind.com. This includes aquafitness, fitness, swimming, skating, shinny hockey and bocce.
- **Virtual hiring events:** new virtual recruitment process for hiring part-time and seasonal recreation staff, whereby applicants can email their job application to recjobs@vaughan.ca for consideration. Qualified candidates are screened and sent a Zoom invite for a virtual job interview.
- **Modified, on-site summer camps:** Vaughan was the only municipality in York Region to offer an in-person summer camp option in 2020; modified summer camp programming was expanded in 2021; a traditional, fulsome line-up of over 40 unique camps is planned for 2022
- **Modified swim lessons and aquatic leadership programs at vaughan.ca/swim:** aquatic programming was re-introduced in 2021.

Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL):

- **vaughanpl.info/vpl_at_home:** VPL's fully digital library service features a variety of free online resources, including eBooks and audiobooks, films and television programs, music streaming services, e-learning courses, bilingual materials and more.
- **Virtual programs:** Storytime live-streams, STEAM-activity videos, scavenger hunts, science experiments and more are available on VPL's website and social media feeds.
- **Extended Wi-Fi:** Public Wi-Fi has been extended to reach the parking lot of Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Civic Centre Resource Library and Pierre Berton Resource Library.
- **New service models:** Curbside pickup service introduced when branches were closed. Award-winning Surprise Me! bundles provided customers with curated selections. Digital library cards issued to allow remote access to collections. Virtual Reference desk and enhanced digital communications introduced to provide customer assistance without requiring a branch visit.

- **Continued expansion and improvement:** VPL has continued to build a world-class library system during the pandemic, opening Mackenzie Health Vaughan Library in Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital in August 2021. Completion is also near for the VMC and VMC Express Libraries. A total renovation of Maple Library will be complete at the end of March 2022 and ongoing renovations are transforming Woodbridge Library. The design phase of Carville Community Centre Library and District Park has been completed, as has the feasibility study for new West Woodbridge Library.

Virtual Events:

- City-led events that resumed virtually include Black History Month commemorations, Lunar New Year celebration, the Vaughan Business Expo, the International Women's Day ceremony, Volunteer Recognition Awards, Earth Hour and more. Visit vaughan.ca/EventCalendar to view upcoming community and City-led events to take place in 2022.

Business Supports:

- **vaughanbusiness.ca:** The dedicated COVID-19 information webpage includes information on resources available from all levels of government.
- **Virtual business advisory services:** Staff are available to support with registering a business, business planning, accessing government assistance programs and more. Since the City declared a state of emergency, Vaughan's Economic Development department has been at the forefront, delivering more than 1,550 business advisory consultations, addressing more than 6,150 business inquiries and providing more than 346 workshops to 6,675 attendees.
- **Sector-specific eNewsletters:** Sign up to receive updates that keep businesses up to date on government announcements, economic and business news, funding and relevant programming.
- **Online resources:** In addition to the #ShopVaughanLocal campaign and the Open For Business webpage, access virtual business events and webinars hosted across York Region via vaughanbusiness.ca/events.

Other Services and Programs for Citizens:

- **Pollinator activities:** Kid-friendly activities are available online and include a butterfly origami, crossword puzzle and a Whose Home? Interactive game available at vaughan.ca/environment.
- **Art Integration Collection:** The City's digital art gallery is available on Flickr, which features the 77 art acquisitions by local and GTA-based artists housed permanently in the collection.
- **Service Vaughan reporting tool:** Available at vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan, submit requests for non-emergency service matters, including garbage, roads and traffic lights.

- **visitvaughan.ca:** The “explore online now, visit later” website, developed in partnership with the Tourism Vaughan Corporation and Central Counties Tourism, features museum tours, cooking lessons, educational webinars, rollercoaster rides and more about all there is to do and see in Vaughan.

Completed a COVID-19 impact manufacturing and supply chain study in partnership with York Region and Supply Chain Canada that attracted provincial and national industry attention.

Responsible fiscal management and competitive tax rates remain critical to Vaughan’s response to supporting residents and businesses throughout the declared state of emergency to help attract investment and advance critical city-building projects.

The recently Council-approved 2022 Budget and 2023 to 2026 Capital Plan was developed with commitments to investing in the community’s future, building on the citizen experience, and providing the most value to residents. It also factors in the impacts of COVID-19, which has created unprecedented challenges for the municipal, provincial, national and global economy, as did the 2021 Budget and 2022 Financial Plan, which included a zero per cent increase to the property tax rate and was the first City Budget developed during the pandemic.

With the approval of the 2022 Budget, Vaughan maintains one of the lowest and most competitive tax rates in the Greater Toronto Area. The property-tax-supported operating budget for 2022 is \$333.2 million; this includes a two per cent property tax levy increase which funds the more than 200 programs and services families rely on, including garbage collection, snow clearing and fire prevention education.

The Capital Budget was also approved with major infrastructure projects for 2022 and a forecast capital plan up to 2026 with investments of \$1223.4 million – this will help the City grow sustainably and build and repair City infrastructure, including roads, pipes and buildings. \$208.4 million for capital projects related to Active, Safe and Diverse Communities.

The City benefited from grants of more than \$30 million, including the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) in fiscal year 2021. This grant funding helped offset operating pressures arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic and costs for approximately 21 projects, including design and construction of the Black Creek channel renewal as well as the stormwater management facility at Gallanough Park, and repairs and replacements of roads, curbs, sidewalks, watermains and street lighting.

Further examples of investor confidence, economic competitiveness, sound fiscal management and the advance of city-building are evident by the fact that in 2020, Procurement Services awarded 396 contracts, which were valued at \$107.5 million. As a result, the City's total procurement increased by \$3.6 million in 2020 compared to 2019.

Furthermore, since 2010, more than \$13 billion in building permits have been issued by the City and, despite the global pandemic, city-building has not slowed since the pandemic. Vaughan issued more than \$1 billion in building permits in the last year alone – a significant investment into the community's future.

Business Reintegration Plan

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, a Business Reintegration Plan guided by the key themes of People, Infrastructure and Communications was developed and approved. In 2021, a comprehensive assessment of operational and staff requirements was undertaken to support moving into Phase One of staff's gradual and safe re-entry to the workplace in November 2021. People Leaders and staff have been provided training and resources on Health and Safety directives, including but not limited to mandatory active COVID-19 screening, education on personal and City facility engineering controls and protocols, and information/support on how to help employees feel safe and reintegrate back into the workplace.

Throughout the entire Corporation, there continue to be many other examples of departments adapting and innovating to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Some examples include:

- **By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services** – By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services lead the Regional COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force to ensure a consistent approach to enforcement activities related to the Reopening Ontario Act and public safety.
 - Since the start of COVID-19 By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services has remained at the forefront in fighting the spread of the virus. Over 52,000 investigations have been carried out as of Q4 2021 while strategically deploying additional resources on a priority basis.
 - As of March 3, 2022, the By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services team has investigated more than 34,718 COVID-19 case files/calls, 19,531 non-COVID-19 related case files and 25,502 Animal Services calls for a total of 79,751 case file calls.
 - Online Business License and Permit Applications: Effective March 14, 2022, many categories of business license applications and renewals became

available online, with remaining categories and permits planned for later in 2022.

- **Corporate and Strategic Communications** – Since the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Corporate and Strategic Communications (CSC) department has remained focused on providing Service Excellence by keeping citizens, businesses, stakeholders and staff well informed through various tactics and channels.
 - From March 2020 to date, the CSC department has issued more than 4,000 COVID-19-related products. These products consist of Public Service Announcements, News Releases, and communications from the Mayor, including Mayor's statements and keynote addresses.
 - The City Hall Connects Special COVID-19 Edition newsletter was delivered to Vaughan mailboxes in April 2020, March 2021 and August 2021, and a new winter edition arrived in all Vaughan mailboxes in January 2022. This hardcopy publication is the latest in a series of communications products produced to keep residents and businesses up to date on the City's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, upcoming projects, virtual events and more.
 - On social media alone, the City has more than 62,000 followers across its four corporate social media platforms.
 - vaughan.ca continues to be one of the most critical communications tools, with more than 1.9 million visits annually.
 - Our digital signs across the city garner more than 63,000 daily impressions – more than 23 million impressions annually.
 - The CSC team generated a large amount of graphic design, photography, and videography collateral to support all of the ongoing COVID-19 communication efforts. More than 12,000 different marketing and creative pieces have been produced. These include special signage and displays, web graphics, social media graphics, advertising pieces and videos.
 - The team's ongoing efforts have increased public awareness of the City's COVID-19 response efforts, helped local businesses access government supports and encouraged continued adherence to public health officials' advice to reduce the transmission of the virus.
- **Economic Development** – In February 2022, Council endorsed Advantage Vaughan – Phase 3 of the City's economic development efforts to respond to COVID-19. It builds off Phase 1: the Vaughan Business Action Plan (March 2020) and Phase 2: the Vaughan Business Resilience Plan (June 2020).

- **Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer (OCHRO)** – Development of several Health and Safety directives, such as “Worksite Visits During COVID-19,” “Mandatory Face Covering Policy” and “Mandatory COVID-19 Screening.” These policies are regularly reviewed and updated to be commensurate with industry best practices and evolving regulatory guidance.
 - Developed and led the City’s rapid response process for COVID-19 contact tracing and partnered with York Region Public Health in ensuring that cases in the workplace were contained.
 - OCHRO, along with Facilities Management and the Office of Transformation and Strategy led the development team in creating the Business Reintegration Plan and all the associated tools and devices to assist staff’s return to the workplace as safely and seamlessly as possible. OCHRO conducted a department-by-department risk assessment for COVID-19 to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all staff.
 - OCHRO launched Wellness@Vaughan Program as well as LifeWorks – a well-being solution platform that offers expert advice, recommendations and referrals with confidential and convenient access to online resources and tools.
 - The COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for staff was implemented with a compliance rate of 99 per cent.
- **Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations** – Advanced a safety culture through Safety Oversight “Form 5” initiative, Safety Review Boards, Near Miss “Good Catch” reporting, and enhanced COVID-19 precautions (Installation of vehicle barriers, and implementation of satellite start centers).
- **Transformation and Strategy** – In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, OTS continues to support the Emergency Operations Centre by leading the Data and Analytics team and Lessons Learned team that reports on COVID-19 insights to the organization.

- **Recreation Services** – partnered with York Region Public Health in March 2021 to establish the Maple Community Centre as one of York Region’s COVID-19 mass and static vaccination clinics where approximately 1,000 doses were administered per day. In preparation for the opening of the clinic, the City and VPL redeployed staff to help run the day-to-day operations of the vaccine clinic. The partnered clinic ran from March 2021 to August 31, 2021, and a total of 117,556 doses were administered.
 - Other temporary and pop-up clinics were also established in 2021, resulting in approximately 20,875 doses being administered. These temporary and/or pop-up clinics included Father E. Bulfon, Vellore Village, Rosemount, Dufferin Clark, and Chancellor Community Centres, including City Playhouse Theatre and St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School.
 - Recognizing the success of clinic operations in partnership with the City of Vaughan, the support of City staff in non-clinical roles was requested again by Public Health in January 2022. This partnership will continue until March 28. An estimated 32,547 doses will be administered by the end of March 2022.
 - Between March 2021 and March 7, 2022, approximately 194,294 doses have been administered.
- **Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service** – VFRS is the recipient of an \$80,100 grant from the Province of Ontario co-ordinated by the Ontario Fire Marshal. The grant will be used towards adopting a model of remote online learning for on-duty staff, specialized mannequins and the ability to perform virtual inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Improving access to healthcare is at the heart of Vaughan’s city-building efforts.

In February 2021, the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital opened exclusively to support the province’s pandemic response. In June 2021, the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, as a full-service community hospital. Vaughan is emerging as an epicentre of healthcare excellence in Canada. As home to the country’s first smart technology hospital and the first net-new hospital to open in Ontario in 30 years, the state-of-the-art facility has an essential role in addressing the healthcare needs of our city for years to come. Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will create a world-class health experience for patients, families and clinicians. Mayor Bevilacqua is Chair of Mackenzie Health Foundation’s \$250-million Ultimate campaign, and more than \$200 million has been raised to date towards its goal.

The Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital is also the anchor institution of the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP) project. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Vaughan, the City is leading a collaboration to transform an 82-acre parcel of land at Jane Street and Major Mackenzie Drive into a hub for healthcare research, innovation, research and economic

opportunity. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in October 2019 between the City of Vaughan, York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB to identify transformational opportunities that will maximize the use of lands surrounding the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. Throughout the pandemic period, important milestones continued to be achieved in developing the VHCP.

The Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital also houses the Mackenzie Health Vaughan Library, which opened in August 2021. This location provides health literacy programming and access to medical research databases and trained expertise.

Previous Reports/Authority

- [COVID-19: The City of Vaughan](#)
- [City of Vaughan Media Releases](#)
- [York Region COVID-19](#)
- [Public Health Ontario COVID-19](#)
- [Government of Canada COVID-19](#)
- [World Health Organization COVID-19](#)
- [Extract from Council Meeting – June 29, 2020 - Update on City's Response to COVID-19 – Ready, Resilient, Resourceful Committee Report \(June 23, 2020\)](#)
- [Extract from Council Meeting – June 29, 2020 - COVID-19 Update – Emergency Operations Centre Response \(June 23, 2020\), Ready, Resilient and Resourceful Committee Report](#)
- [Update on City's Response to COVID-19 \(September 29, 2020\)](#)
- [Mass Vaccination Clinic Update \(March 10, 2021\)](#)
- [Update on City's Response to COVID-19 \(March 10, 2021\)](#)

Analysis

Planning for the “new normal” regarding COVID-19 means planning ahead for the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

The abovementioned information demonstrates that as COVID-19 persists, city-building continues. Despite the unprecedented challenges, the City has effective governance, administrative-led processes and programs, such as alternative work arrangements, digital services and business continuity plans. In addition, the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan continues to guide Vaughan's efforts to navigate through the impacts of COVID-19. The majority of strategic initiatives are on target for meeting the objectives of this term of Council. Staff are currently developing a framework for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan that will be presented to Council in early 2023 for approval.

The new Citizen Satisfaction Survey will inform the next Strategic Plan, scheduled to be completed with a report back to Council in early Q1 of 2023. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Vaughan has not conducted the Citizen Satisfaction Survey since 2018. Furthermore, the questions have remained static since the survey's launch in 2007. Staff will update the questionnaire to include a series of new questions to understand better public opinion about city services that changed because of the pandemic. The refreshed survey would enable the City to establish new benchmarks and inform city-building in a post-COVID-19 era.

The City's existing governance structure is well placed to monitor and respond to any emerging issues in response to the pandemic.

As jurisdictions worldwide begin to lift COVID-19 restrictions, including Ontario, the “new normal” is becoming more of a reality for communities. Some jurisdictions have either lifted or are considering lifting their state-of-emergencies. The City is moving forward with a phased approach for reopening City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre to the public and increasing staffing levels in City facilities.

The City's existing governance structure is well placed to monitor and respond to any emerging issues resulting from the pandemic. For these reasons, there no longer remains a need for a separate Council committee dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 response efforts. In addition, ending the RRR Committee now also coincides with the conclusion of task forces and the remaining Committee and Council meetings for the current term, which will conclude in June 2022.

Proposed amendment to the City of Vaughan Emergency Measures By-law 037-2020 to ensure alignment with the provincial reopening plan.

Shortly following the declaration of the City's state of emergency, on April 8, 2020, City Council adopted the recommendations of staff and enacted the City's Emergency Measures By-law 037-2020 to provide a further regulatory tool that allowed for greater oversight, regulation and enforcement in support of the health, well-being and safety of the community with respect to COVID-19.

The By-law includes specific prohibitions, as prescribed in Section 7.0 – Prohibitions, such as social distancing requirements and gathering restrictions, among others. Further, Section 18.0 (1) Force and Effect provides that the By-law shall remain in force until 30 days after the state of emergency, unless terminated by the Head of Council under his or her delegated authority.

As the province is currently in the RoadMap Step Exit Stage under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, S.O. 2020, c. 17, and the province plans

to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions on April 27, 2022, the COVID-19 restrictions are no longer necessary and the 30-day period following the Head of Council's state of emergency termination does not align with provincial measures and recent announcements.

To correspond with the province's reopening plan, the By-law should be amended to delete Section 7.0 and to amend Section 18.0(1) to provide that the By-law shall remain in effect until the Head of Council terminates the declaration of a state of emergency within the City.

Conclusion of the Weekly Memorandum Update on City's Response to COVID-19.

At the start of the City's declared emergency in March of 2020, and the activation of the City's Emergency Operations Centre, staff began documenting and reporting to Mayor and Members of Council through a weekly memorandum that clearly demonstrated actions being undertaken, impacts to City services and facilities and all key data on COVID-19 public health information. With the province's move to reopening, staff will be concluding this memorandum at the end of March 2022 while continuing to monitor and will ensure Council is kept informed of any relevant information, as required.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the approval of this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The City continues to work closely with all levels of government to ensure full compliance with directives about COVID-19. In addition, staff continue working closely with stakeholders from across York Region, the Greater Toronto Area, and Ontario to ensure Vaughan safely reopens and safeguards citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life.

Conclusion

As this report outlines in detail, Vaughan has been a leader across the corporation in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Through innovation, responsible fiscal management and a genuine commitment to delivering quality public services, the City is delivering Service Excellence to the people and businesses of the community. The City also continues to move forward with transformational initiatives like the MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy, the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, findings reports

from the Council-approved task forces and the new Strategic Plan. As previously mentioned, the City's existing governance structure, policies, procedures and programs are well-placed to monitor and respond to any emerging issues resulting from the pandemic and to prepare for a "new normal" future.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachments

N/A

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Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager