VAUGHAN

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 05, 2018   **WARD(S):** ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

FROM:
Todd Coles, City Clerk

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

Staff is recommending that August 18, 2018 be proclaimed as "India Independence Day" in the City of Vaughan, that the Indian flag be raised at 2:00 p.m. on August 18, 2018 at City Hall for the balance of the day, and that the proclamation be posted on the City Page Online.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the request received from the Vice-President of WEConnect Community Services.
- Proclamation and flag raising event requested for August 18, 2018.

Recommendations

1. That August 18, 2018 be proclaimed as India Independence Day in the City of Vaughan;
2. That the Indian flag be raised at 2:00 p.m. on August 18, 2018 at City Hall for the balance of the day; and
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the City Page Online.

Background

Correspondence was received from the Vice-President of WEConnect Community Services on April 9, 2018 making the request.

This request has been previously granted by Council.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Item 1, Report No. 26 of the Committee of the Whole - Proclamation and Flag Raising Request for India Independence Day 2017](#)

Analysis and Options

The proclamation meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy and Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdictions or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter"; and

"In recognition of the ethnic diversity of the residents of the municipality the City of Vaughan will fly at the Civic Centre the flag of any nation, country or ethnic group on the national day or on the anniversary of a special occasion, upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance by that nation, or ethnic group or its representatives."

India's Independence Day is one of three national holidays in India and is observed in all Indian states and union territories. The City of Vaughan and surrounding areas consist of thousands of members of the South Asian community. The celebration of this day in Vaughan would be meaningful to this community.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that August 18, 2018 be proclaimed as India Independence Day in the City of Vaughan, that the City of Vaughan raise the Indian flag at 2:00 p.m. on August 18, 2018 at City Hall for the balance of the day, and that the proclamation be

posted on the City Page Online.

For more information, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk

<u>Attachments</u>

1. Correspondence from the Vice-President of WEConnect Community Services, received on April 9, 2018

<u>Prepared by</u>

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, x8280

April 4, 2018

City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

Attention: City Clerk- City of Vaughan

Re: Celebration of India Independence Day Event on August 14, 2016

Please accept this letter on behalf of WEConnect Community Services as our formal request to have an official Flag Raising ceremony for India's Independence Day on August 18, 2018 at 2pm. The flag raising ceremony will be for one hour with a reception to follow in the multi-purpose room.

India celebrates Independence Day on August 15 each year. India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947. It is a day when people of India pay homage to their leaders and those who fought for India's freedom in the past.

India's Independence Day, one of the three national holidays in India *and* is observed in all Indian states and union territories. Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs take place in governmental and non-governmental institutions throughout the country.

Statistics show that Vaughan and surrounding areas consists of over 35 000 South Asian community members. It would be a great privilege for the members of the Vaughan community to celebrate the raising of the Indian flag at Vaughan City Hall.

In recognition of India Independence Day we are requesting to hold:

1. An official flag raising ceremony for India Independence day on August 18, 2018 at 2:00pm with a reception to follow in the Multi-purpose room at Vaughan City Hall.

At the flag raising at City Hall, our invited delegates will unfurl India's flag and hold a speech in the presence of Vaughan City Council, invited guests and community members. During the flag raising celebration, there will playing Indian patriotic songs for the community members. We will have media presence and outreach strategy to promote the celebration of India's Independence

Day for the first time in Vaughan. We would like to coordinate some visuals to be shown in the Multi-purpose room to the community members while they enjoy the celebrations and refreshments during the event.

All activities are to be presented as a partnership with the City of Vaughan and we are most confident that a significant percentage of our community will participate.

Should you require further information and/or clarification please feel free to contact us at 647-822-2224 or via email at weconnectcs@gmail.com

We thank you in advance for your continued co-operation.

Respectfully,

Sejal Gajjar
Vice-President
WEConnect Community Services.