

## **MEMBER'S RESOLUTION**

### **Committee of the Whole (1) Report**

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**DATE:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022

**TITLE: PROPOSED: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2023-2024**

**FROM:**

Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco

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**Whereas**, Vaughan is home to many active, engaged, thriving and diverse communities, and ongoing efforts are underway by the City to foster a greater culture of inclusion; and

**Whereas**, the holiday season brings these communities, families, neighbours, and visitors together to enjoy many amenities and festivities throughout Vaughan; and

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan offers and supports popular and much-anticipated events throughout the holiday and winter season, such as the annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony, Christmas Tree Lighting, Toy Drive in support of the CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish, and the award-winning Vaughan Celebrates Winterfest; and

**Whereas**, the holiday and winter season presents further economic and overnight tourism development opportunities with key tourism market segments – as outlined in the *Vaughan Destination Master Plan* - including residents across Southern Ontario; and

**Whereas**, the City continues its development of the Event Strategy intended to establish a strategic framework for events in the City; and

**Whereas**, festive lights are a hallmark of the holiday season; and

**Whereas**, the City is well positioned to build off the success of the above-mentioned holiday and winter season events by organizing and launching an annual Festival of Lights, to further bring families and visitors to the Vaughan community for the 2023-2024 holiday and winter season.

**It is therefore recommended:**

1. THAT, City staff be directed to develop a plan with options to host an annual Festival of Lights to be launched during the 2023-2024 holiday season; and
2. THAT, as part of the City's planning efforts for the Festival of Lights, staff consider funding options, including but not limited to, the Municipal Accommodation Tax, grants, sponsorship, and future budget requests; and
3. THAT, the Deputy City Manager, Community Services report back at a future meeting of Committee of the Whole (2) with a proposed plan for a potential Festival of Lights event for approval by the end of Q1 2023.

**Attachments**

N/A