

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Monday, December 12, 2022

**TITLE: CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MISSION -
BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES**

FROM:

Regional Councillor Gino Rosati

Whereas, Mayor Lorna Jackson signed Vaughan's international partnership with Baguio City in 1997. Since then, four official delegations from Baguio have visited Vaughan;

Whereas, in 2017, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council welcomed an eight-person delegation from Baguio City to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the agreement;

Whereas, in November 2022, Mayor Steven Del Duca and Council welcomed a delegation from Baguio City, including Vice Mayor Fasutino Olowan and Councillor Fred Bagbagan of Baguio City, to mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning agreement between the two cities. This meeting and economic development technical briefing marked the first international delegation hosted by Mayor Del Duca and the 2022 to 2026 Council. The visiting delegation also extended an invitation to Council to visit the Philippines;

Whereas, since 2004, the City has recognized Filipino Day annually in June to celebrate Philippine Independence Day;

Whereas, Vaughan Council has undertaken separate missions to Baguio, including in 2009 for its centennial celebration and the inauguration of the Global Garden, and in 2013, to celebrate the Flower Festival and meet with the Baguio Economic Development Authority;

Whereas, Vaughan has a thriving and engaged Filipino community with more than 6,000 residents, many actively involved with the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV);

Whereas, in July 2022, Regional Councillor Gino Rosati led a meeting with staff from Vaughan's Office of Communications and Economic Development, representatives from Niagara University's Vaughan campus, the FCAV and Consul General Orontes Castro to explore further partnership opportunities;

Whereas, Baguio City has strong industry clusters in education with seven post-secondary institutions, a thriving retail and hospitality cluster, and a mining industry in the broader region; and

Whereas, the Philippines are a growing economic (trade and investment) partner with Canada with more than \$2.7 billion in trade in 2021, a total value of more than \$2.6 billion of Canadian investment in the Philippines, and a free-trade agreement being negotiated.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT, in accordance with Corporate Policy 02.C.02, the City undertake a Business and Cultural Mission to Baguio City, Philippines between Q1 and Q3 2023, with supplemental programming to maximize the City's presence in the Philippines, funded up to \$40,000 by the future and to be approved Economic Prosperity Fund (2023) and other city-wide funding sources as required;
2. THAT, up to three Members of Council selected by the Mayor and Council, and two members of City staff, as selected by the City Manager, participate in the Mission; and
3. THAT, City staff submit a post-mission report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting highlighting outcomes of the mission and next steps.

Attachments

[Corporate Policy 02.C.02: INBOUND AND OUTBOUND DELEGATIONS](#)

[Government of Canada Trade Commissioner Services: Doing Business in the Philippines](#)

Vaughan Economic Development Strategy
[Chapter 7: International Friendship and Twin City Relationships](#)