

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2022**

Item 1, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 17, 2022, as follows, and the confidential recommendations made public upon Council ratification:

#### **1. CIVIC HERO AWARD 2022 - WARD 3**

**The Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) recommends:**

- 1) That the resolution of Councillor DeFrancesca, dated May 10, 2022, be approved.**

#### **Member's Resolution**

**Submitted by Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca**

**Whereas**, City of Vaughan Council established the Civic Hero Award as a way to honour residents who have taken extraordinary action to create a better community and who act as inspirations for civic engagement; and

**Whereas**, the Civic Hero Award has been established such that each Ward Councillor has the authority to nominate one resident in their respective ward per year; and

**Whereas**, Phyllis Santone has been a fierce leader and advocate for her daughter Rita, and countless other young adults who have been searching for quality programs in an environment where all abilities were recognized, and people were offered the opportunity to become active members of their community. It was this perseverance and determination that Phyllis along with strong community support that Creating Alternatives was born. Creating Alternatives provides day program activities and support to young people over the age of 21 who are transitioning from high school into adult community life. Families can access services from a menu of options based on needs, and personal choices. Creating Alternatives is not a Government-Funded agency, and it is a not-for profit organization with Federal Charity status. Today Creating Alternatives has evolved into an independent program offering services to people with a developmental disability looking for support to engage in all aspects of community life, such as the opportunity to train for job-skills, life-skills, literacy-skills, and to engage socially with all members of society; and,

**Whereas**, Phyllis went on to form a for purpose business called Chocolate Concepts Inc., which would provide life and job-skills training to the young adults of the Creating Alternatives program, with a portion of revenues from the sales of Chocolate products used to assist with the operational expenses of the Creating Alternatives program. Anyone who purchases products from Chocolate Concepts is a partner in achieving one of the company's missions. That is to remove barriers, and assist those who require support to become independent, contributing, and valued members of their community.

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**It is therefore recommended:**

1. That Phyllis Santone be named the 2022 Civic Hero for Ward 3, and;
2. That the award be presented to the honuoree at the June 7th Committee of the Whole Public Meeting.