

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2023

Item 20, Report No. 18, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 25, 2023.

20. CORRESPONDENCE FOR MEMBER'S RESOLUTION - PROTECTING THE PEOPLE: VAUGHAN PUBLIC SAFETY

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated April 18, 2023:

Recommendations

1. THAT Council approve the drafted correspondence from the Head of Council to the Prime Minister and Federal Attorney General (Attachment 1) and the Premier and Provincial Attorney General (Attachment 2).
2. THAT this report be fully endorsed during April 18, 2023, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting to ensure sending the correspondence (letters) is expedited.
3. THAT this decision be ratified by Council.

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 **WARD(S):** ALL

TITLE: CORRESPONDENCE FOR MEMBER'S RESOLUTION -
PROTECTING THE PEOPLE: VAUGHAN PUBLIC SAFETY

FROM:
Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to fulfil recommendations from a Vaughan City Council-approved February 2023 Member's Resolution requesting correspondence be drafted and sent to federal and provincial elected officials on public safety. The recommendation further requests that City Council approve the drafts.

Report Highlights

- In February 2023, Vaughan City Council approved the Member's Resolution – *Protecting the People: Vaughan Public Safety*.
- The Member's Resolution's first recommendation asks the Ontario government to change the *Ontario Courts of Justice Act* to allow for expedited hearings (within 30 days or less) regarding motions for sanctions against residents of a condominium alleged to have made physical threats to other residents of the condominium or members of the condominium board.
- The Member's Resolution's second recommendation requests that the Federal Government put in place an expedited process under the *Firearms Act* to revoke a firearm license to any gun owner accused of threatening another resident of a condominium or members of a condominium board.
- The Member's Resolution further recommends that correspondence be drafted and sent to federal and provincial elected officials on public safety, and that City Council approve the drafts.

Recommendations

1. THAT Council approve the drafted correspondence from the Head of Council to the Prime Minister and Federal Attorney General (Attachment 1) and the Premier and Provincial Attorney General (Attachment 2).
2. THAT this report be fully endorsed during April 18, 2023, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting to ensure sending the correspondence (letters) is expedited.
3. THAT this decision be ratified by Council.

Background

During the February 7, 2023, Committee of the Whole (1) meeting, Vaughan City Council approved the Member's Resolution – *Protecting the People: Vaughan Public Safety*. This approval was ratified at the Feb. 22, 2023, meeting of City Council. Of note, the Member's Resolution recommends:

1. *That The Corporation of the City of Vaughan recommends that the province change the Ontario Courts of Justice Act to allow for expedited hearings (within 30 days or less) re: Motions for sanctions against residents of a condominium alleged to have made physical threats to other residents of the condominium or members of the Condominium Board;*
2. *That The Corporation of the City of Vaughan recommends that the federal government put in place an expedited process under the Firearms Act to revoke a firearm license to any gun owner accused of threatening another resident of a condominium or members of a Condominium Board; and*
3. *That staff draft a letter to be approved by Vaughan City Council to be sent to the Honorable Prime Minister of Canada and Federal Attorney General, and the Honorable Premier of Ontario and Provincial Attorney General requesting the aforementioned legislative changes be implemented forthwith to protect Vaughan residents from any further harm or loss of life.*

Previous Reports/Authority

February 7, 2023, Committee of the Whole (1) meeting Member's Resolution – [Protecting the People: Vaughan Public Safety](#)

Analysis and Options

None.

Financial Impact

None.

Operational Impact

None.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Efforts to safeguard the public are the responsibility of all government levels. Therefore, the drafted correspondence will go to senior Federal and Provincial elected officials. The letters will also be sent to York Region.

Conclusion

This City staff report seeks to fulfill recommendations outlined in the February 2023 Member's Resolution requesting correspondence be drafted and sent to federal and provincial elected officials on public safety.

For more information, please contact: Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development ext. 8027.

Attachments

1. Head of Council correspondence to the Prime Minister and Federal Attorney General
2. Head of Council correspondence to the Premier and Provincial Attorney General

Prepared by

Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development ext. 8027.

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



STEVEN DEL DUCA
MAYOR

DATE

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

In light of the tragic events suffered by our citizens on December 18, 2022 at the Bellaria Towers, when residents of a condominium building were killed in their homes by another resident, the City of Vaughan continues engaging residents suffering mental health impacts. We are committed to helping contribute to the long-term recovery from the shootings.

As a result, Vaughan City Council passed a resolution on February 22, 2023, to respectfully ask that the Government of Canada consider necessary amendments to the Firearms Act to allow for an expedited process (within thirty days or less of receiving a request from police to revoke a firearms license) to revoke a firearm license from any gun owner accused of threatening another resident of a condominium or members of a Condominium Board. The resolution further asks the Ontario government to change the Ontario Courts of Justice Act to allow for expedited hearings (within 30 days or less) regarding motions for sanctions against residents of a condominium alleged to have made physical threats to other residents of the condominium or members of the condominium board. These changes are intended to protect our citizens from further harm or loss of life.

As we look ahead, community safety remains top-of-mind for the people of Vaughan. As a result, community safety meetings are taking place in the City's five wards. These meetings will help further inform the actions of a new City of Vaughan Community Safety Advisory Committee recently established. In addition, as the City is moving ahead with its new 2022-2026 Term of Council Strategic Plan, safeguarding the well-being of our residents and partnering with critical stakeholders like other governments are informing this vital strategy and our city-building priorities.

Finally, and further to the points mentioned above, I also want to reiterate my support following Minister Lametti's recent announcement about targeted reforms to the Criminal Code to update Canada's bail system. This effort is consistent with calls by Canada's Premiers and Territorial Leaders and Ontario's Big City Mayors. In addition, I wrote to you, Prime Minister, asking the federal government to urgently modernize Canada's bail system to ensure dangerous offenders remain off our streets. Prime Minister, you responded to my letter, noting the importance of effective criminal laws keeping Canadians safe. Again, Minister Lametti's announcement is a critical step forward.

Community safety is an issue of great importance to the residents of Vaughan. I will continue to work with all government levels and stakeholders to keep residents, neighbours, and our entire city safe and secure. I attach for your reference a copy of Council's February 22, 2023, Member's Resolution, as passed.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca
Mayor, City of Vaughan

Encl. February 22, 2023, Member's Resolution

CC: Hon. David Lametti, Attorney General of Canada
Vaughan Council
Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO
City of Vaughan Senior Leadership Team—Executive



STEVEN DEL DUCA
MAYOR

DATE

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

In light of the tragic events suffered by our citizens on December 18, 2022 at the Bellaria Towers, when residents of a condominium building were killed in their homes by a fellow resident, the City of Vaughan continues engaging residents suffering mental health impacts. We are committed to helping contribute to the long-term recovery from the shootings.

As a result, Vaughan City Council passed a resolution on February 22, 2023, to respectfully ask that the Government of Canada consider necessary amendments to the Firearms Act to allow for an expedited process (within thirty days or less of receiving a request from police to revoke a firearms license) to revoke a firearm license from any gun owner accused of threatening another resident of a condominium or members of a Condominium Board. The resolution further asks the Ontario government to change the Ontario Courts of Justice Act to allow for expedited hearings (within 30 days or less) regarding motions for sanctions against residents of a condominium alleged to have made physical threats to other residents of the condominium or members of the condominium board. These changes are intended to protect our citizens from further harm or loss of life.

As we look ahead, community safety remains top-of-mind for the people of Vaughan. As a result, community safety meetings are taking place in the City's five wards. These meetings will help further inform the actions of a new City of Vaughan Community Safety Advisory Committee recently established. In addition, as the City is moving ahead with its new 2022-2026 Term of Council Strategic Plan, safeguarding the well-being of our residents and partnering with critical stakeholders like other governments are informing this vital strategy and our city-building priorities.

Finally, I welcome news that Justice Minister Lametti announced targeted reforms to the Criminal Code to update Canada's bail system. This effort is consistent with calls by Canada's Premiers and Territorial Leaders and Ontario's Big City Mayors. In addition, I wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau, asking the federal government to urgently modernize Canada's bail system to ensure dangerous offenders remain off our streets. The Prime Minister responded to my letter, noting the importance of having effective criminal laws that keep Canadians safe. Again, Minister Lametti's announcement is a critical step forward.

Community safety is an issue of great importance to the residents of Vaughan. I will continue to work with all government levels and stakeholders to keep residents, neighbours, and our entire city safe and secure. I attach for your reference a copy of Council's February 22, 2023 Member's Resolution, as passed.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca
Mayor, City of Vaughan

Encl. February 22, 2023, Member's Resolution

CC: Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General
Vaughan Council
Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO
City of Vaughan Senior Leadership Team—Executive