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## Council Report

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**DATE:** Wednesday, May 01, 2019

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE: US IGNITE SMART GIGABIT COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**FROM:**

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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**Purpose**

To report to Council on staff's learnings and participation from attending the US Ignite Application Summit.

**Report Highlights**

- Staff attended the US Ignite Application Summit on April 1 to 4, 2019.
- Vaughan is the first Canadian city to be invited to join the US Ignite Smart Gigabit Community.
- Joining the Smart Gigabit Community will allow Vaughan to strengthen professional networks, access innovative best practices and improve organizational and technical capabilities.
- Vaughan's membership provides free access to more than 100 municipal developed applications

**Recommendations**

1. That this report and staff presentation be received;
2. That a copy of the signed MOU be forwarded to Members of York Region Council, as well as Vaughan's federal and provincial elected representatives.

## **Background**

At the Council meeting of March 19, 2019, Council approved the following resolution: “That staff attending the Summit bring forward a report and present a deputation about their presentation for the Council meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2019”. This report and presentation are to satisfy this requirement.

US Ignite, is a not-for-profit organization that is accelerating the smart city movement, by creating value for an entire ecosystem, guiding communities into the connected future, creating a path for private sector growth, and advancing technology research that’s at the heart of smart city development. US Ignite has been awarded funding for the “Smart Gigabit Communities” program by National Science Foundation since 2012. This program aims to foster the creation of novel applications and digital experiences that have the potential to transform areas such as traffic, transportation, water quality, job skills training, public safety, energy, education and healthcare.

The City intends to work with the Smart Gigabit Community to access: their high-capacity, low-latency network infrastructure, technical expertise and business partners, civic leaders that have implemented smart city solutions and tools and playbooks that will accelerate Vaughan’s Smart City and digital transformation initiatives.

In April, Corporate Services staff attended the US Ignite Application Summit in Denver, Colorado to accept a recognition award as the newest member of the Smart Gigabit Community. It was a successful event highlighted by industry leading keynote speakers; updates on the latest smart city technology trends, demonstrations of applications built by community members, networking opportunities and participation in roundtable discussions.

Staff are excited to be discussing this initiative with other municipal and regional partners to expand the network and create greater synergies.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

COUNCIL - MARCH 19, 2019 Member’s Resolution: [Memorandum of Understanding between US Ignite and the City of Vaughan](#)

## **Analysis and Options**

### **Benefits of Joining the Smart Gigabit Community**

The Smart Gigabit Community MOU will provide Vaughan with the following benefits:

- Best practices shared across an ecosystem of many cities
- Playbook on organizing local smart community efforts
- Access to next-generation applications developed by other communities
- Exposure at the US Ignite Application Summit for successful activities
- Personalized coaching and mentoring and advice on smart community issues
- Complimentary registration to the US Ignite Application Summit.

For additional information, please see US Ignite MOU (Attachment #1)

### **Financial Impact**

Vaughan's membership is renewed quarterly with a fee of USD \$7,500. Additional costs may be incurred during collaboration with the community.

No additional funding is required as the membership fee will be paid with existing budgeted funds.

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

A copy of the signed MOU be forwarded to Members of York Region Council as well as Vaughan's federal and provincial elected representatives.

### **Conclusion**

Vaughan's membership in the Smart Gigabit Community supports the advancement of the Council-approved Smart City and Digital Strategy initiatives.

**For more information**, please contact: Frank Di Palma, CIO, ext. 8052

### **Attachments**

1. US Ignite MOU – Corporate Services Portfolio May 1, 2019

### **Prepared by**

Frank Di Palma, CIO, Corporate Services, ext. 8052