

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

TITLE: DECLARING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AN EPIDEMIC

FROM:

Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco

Whereas, the jury of the adjudicated the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest (The Renfrew Inquest) issued 86 recommendations to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence; and

Whereas, recommendation #1 of the inquest is for the Province of Ontario to declare IPV an epidemic; and

Whereas, every two days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner; and

Whereas, on any given night in Canada, over 6000 women and children sleep in shelters because it is not safe for them at home; and

Whereas, this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide; and

Whereas, according to York Regional Police, IPV and family violence are top dispatched calls for service – in 2022, they had 9,339 calls per their annual report; and

Whereas, in 2022, Yellowbrick House worked with 5,201 abused women and children and are already seeing an uptake to their regular quota of crisis calls this year; and

Whereas, violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social service agencies, and municipalities billions of dollars per year, and municipalities are on the front line in addressing gender-based violence; and

Whereas, Vaughan City Council recognizes that issues of violence against women in all communities are of local importance to the health and wellness of our residents.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Vaughan City Council recognize the issues of violence against women and girls in York Region as serious to the health and wellness of local families;
2. That the Corporate and Strategic Communications department share this message through its channels, as appropriate, including promoting, educating, and creating public awareness about the seriousness and long-term danger of violence in our community;
3. That Vaughan City Council declare, in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the Renfrew Inquest, that Intimate Partner Violence and Violence Against Women are epidemic; and
4. That the City Clerk circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario; the Associate Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; the Solicitor General; MPP Michael Tibollo; MPP Laura Smith; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and Ontario's Big City Mayors.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

The Corporate and Strategic Communications Department provided input on this Member's Resolution.

Attachments

None.