

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** PROCLAMATION REQUESTS

**PLASTIC FREE JULY, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS  
DAY IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN, FILIPINO DAY & GBS/CIDP  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**FROM:**

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor

**ACTION:** DECISION

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### **Purpose**

To seek approval for the proclamation requests received for: Plastic Free July, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan, Filipino Day and GBS/CIDP Awareness Month.

### **Report Highlights**

- Respond to the request received from the Environmental Services Department for proclamation for month of July.
- Respond to the request received from York Region MY MS FAMILY Community for proclamation for date in May.
- Respond to the request received from the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) for proclamation for date in June.
- Respond to the request received from the GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada for proclamation for month of May.

### **Recommendations**

1. That July be proclaimed as “Plastic Free July” and that going forward it be proclaimed yearly on a recurring basis;
2. That May 11, 2022, be proclaimed as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan”;

3. That June 11, 2022, be proclaimed as “Filipino Day”;
4. That May be proclaimed as “GBS/CIDP Awareness Month”; and,
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City’s website, and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

## **Background**

### **Plastic Free July**

Plastic Free July is a campaign to raise awareness of the goal to see a world free of plastic waste. This campaign encourages people around the world to commit to reducing plastic pollution during the month of July, with the aim of continuing this action every day of the year.

Vaughan is a “green” city that remains committed to fostering a sustainable community that will continue to enhance the quality of life for all residents, businesses and visitors. This proclamation, recognized on an annual basis going forward, will help further this commitment.

### **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan**

The mission of MY MS FAMILY is to bring awareness to the community about Multiple Sclerosis (MS), as well as to help and support those living with this debilitating disease. Each week membership continues to grow with someone being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. A proclamation would be meaningful to the organization to assist in their awareness campaign.

Council has previously granted this request, most recently in 2021. The organization has also requested a flag raising for the same day, which will be reviewed by the City Clerk as per the City’s Flag Raising Policy (03.C.11).

### **Filipino Day**

Philippine Independence Day, which occurs on June 12, is celebrated each year by Filipinos across the world. This is a national day of the Philippines to commemorate ancestors who sacrificed their lives for sovereignty. This year, it is the 124th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Council has previously granted this request for proclamation, most recently in 2019. The organization has also requested a flag raising for the same day, which will be reviewed by the City Clerk as per the City’s Flag Raising Policy (03.C.11).

## **GBS/CIDP Awareness Month**

The Month of May has been internationally designated as "GBS and CIDP Awareness Month" to educate the public and bring awareness about the rare conditions of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), and variants such as Multifocal Motor Neuropathy. GBS has a sudden onset of symptoms, which can cause complete paralysis very quickly. Earlier diagnosis, treatment, and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong damage of the nerves.

The GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada is a not-for-profit organization that supports patients and families afflicted with GBS and CIDP. This organization is working to raise awareness of these rare conditions, and a proclamation would be meaningful in this endeavour.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

### **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan**

[Committee of the Whole – April 2020](#)

### **Filipino Day**

[Committee of the Whole – April 2019](#)

## **Analysis and Options**

### **Plastic Free July**

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
  - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

### **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan**

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
  - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

### **Filipino Day**

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
  - 2.1.1. Arts, culture or heritage commemorations in the City of Vaughan

### **GBS/CIDP Awareness Month**

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
  - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact expected in regards to these requests.

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

Not applicable.

### **Conclusion**

Having reviewed each request, staff is recommending that: July be proclaimed as "Plastic Free July" and that going forward it be proclaimed yearly on a recurring basis; that May 11, 2022, be proclaimed as "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan"; that June 11, 2022, be proclaimed as "Filipino Day"; that May be proclaimed as "GBS/CIDP Awareness Month", and, finally, that the proclamations be posted on the City's website, and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

**For more information**, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk

### **Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Environmental Services Department, received on January 27, 2022
2. Correspondence from York Region MY MS FAMILY Community, received on March 2, 2022
3. Correspondence from FCAV, received on March 14, 2022
4. Correspondence from GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada, received on March 3, 2022

### **Prepared by**

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280

**Approved by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Law".

Wendy Law  
Deputy City Manager  
Legal and Administrative Services  
& City Solicitor

**Reviewed by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Spensieri".

Nick Spensieri, City Manager