

MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

**TITLE: NAMING OF SAIGON PARK, STRENGTHENING RELATIONS
WITH VAUGHAN'S SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY**

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca
Councillor Adriano Volpentesta

Whereas, to strengthen relations with local Vietnamese communities, cities like Brampton and Mississauga have dedicated their own Saigon Parks, which helps further recognize and pay tribute to the Vietnamese Canadian community who found refuge in Canada during the fall of Saigon; and

Whereas, the proposed Block 59 District Park in Ward 2 presents an important city-building opportunity and venue for the South Vietnamese community to come together to celebrate their culture for current and future generations to understand better and appreciate. This planned park location presents another vital opportunity to recognize and honour Vaughan's dynamic Vietnamese Canadian community; and

Whereas, the naming recommendation outlined in this Member's Resolution is consistent with City of Vaughan's *Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties* (TPF-006) corporate policy; and

Whereas, in accordance with section 3.6 of the abovementioned policy, by resolution Council may approve a name or name change, in honour of individuals or groups when circumstances justify such action; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is home to an active and engaged Vietnamese Canadian community dedicated to enriching the overall quality of life for all residents. Of note, the leadership and members of the Vietnam Association of Vaughan dedicate their time, talent and energy to raising awareness about Vietnam's history, culture and identity; and

Whereas, previously, Vaughan Council has proclaimed April 30 Journey to Freedom Day and has raised the Heritage and Freedom Flag of South Vietnam outside Vaughan City Hall in recognition. April 30 commemorates the great sacrifices made to find freedom and democracy after the fall of Saigon in April 1975; and

Whereas, Journey to Freedom Day is an opportunity to remember the lives lost in the Vietnam War and acknowledge the critical role played by Canada in welcoming Vietnamese refugees.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT, in accordance with the City of Vaughan's *Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties* (TPF-006) corporate policy, Council approves the naming of the Block 59 District Park located in Ward 2 be renamed Saigon Park;
2. That a plaque be installed at that future park location paying tribute to Vaughan's local Vietnamese Canadian community;
3. That City staff be directed to organize a City-led event to mark the above mentioned renaming and plaque unveiling;
4. That notwithstanding the Council directive from December 5, 2023, that the City of Vaughan's *Flag Protocol Corporate Policy* (03.C.11), the Heritage and Freedom Flag of South Vietnam be raised annually on April 30, or on an alternative date if requested by the Vietnam Association of Vaughan, outside Vaughan City Hall in recognition, as a standalone flag on a City flagpole; and
5. That the City incur expenditures to complete the above-mentioned recommendations.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact:

Existing operating budget will be leveraged to fund the proposed plaque.

Attachments:

[December 5, 2023, Member's Resolution by Mayor Steven Del Duca: Supporting Vaughan's South Vietnamese Community](#)