

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS:

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT MONTH, AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH, NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPRECIATION WEEK, WORLD PI (PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCIES) WEEK, GBS/CIDP AWARENESS MONTH, WORLD MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH DAY AND FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for the above-noted proclamation requests.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the proclamation requests received for the months of April and May.

Recommendations

1. THAT the following be proclaimed:
 - a) the month of April as “Information Management Month” on an annual basis going forward;
 - b) the month of April 2024 be proclaimed as “Autism Awareness Month”;
 - c) the week of April 14 to April 20, 2024 as “National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week”;
 - d) the week of April 22 to April 29, 2024 as “World PI (Primary Immunodeficiencies) Week”;

- e) the month of May as “GBS/CIDP Awareness Month”;
- f) the day of May 1, 2024 as “World Maternal Mental Health Day”; and
- g) May 1 as “First Responders Day” on an annual basis going forward.

- 2. THAT the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and that the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department be directed to promote the above noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

Background

Information Management Month

The EIMS division of the Office of the City Clerk submitted a request for proclamation to annually re-occur every April. This proclamation is dedicated to raising awareness and education around the importance of information management. Council has previously granted this request.

Autism Awareness Month

Waves of Changes for Autism in partnership with Autism Ontario, submitted a request for proclamation to recognize April as Autism Awareness Month. Council has previously granted this request.

A flag raising and illumination has also been requested to commemorate Autism Awareness Month. As per the City’s Flag Protocol Policy 03.C.11 and the City’s Illumination Policy 03.C.12, the City Clerk will review these requests accordingly.

National Animal Control Office Appreciation Week

Vaughan Animal Services submitted a request for proclamation to recognize the week of April 14 to April 20, 2024. The week is designated to show appreciation to animal control officers who are dedicated to helping pets and people in the community.

World PI (Primary Immunodeficiencies) Week

Immunity Canada submitted a request for proclamation to recognize the week of April 22 to April 29, 2024. World PI Week is a global campaign held every year during this week, aimed at raising awareness for primary immunodeficiencies (PI) and increasing public understanding of these conditions.

The organization hopes that by raising awareness by proclaiming this week, people will better understand what it is like to be immune compromised including the importance of getting a timely diagnosis and access to life-saving treatment. Council has previously granted this request.

GBS/CIDP Awareness Month

The GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada submitted a request for proclamation for the month of May. This month has been internationally designated as “GBS/CIDP Awareness Month” to educate and raise awareness on these rare conditions. Earlier diagnosis, treatment and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves due to these conditions.

Council has previously granted this request.

World Maternal Mental Health Day

The Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative submitted a request for proclamation for May 1, 2024.

Since 2016, World Maternal Mental Health Day is commemorated on the first Wednesday of May every year. Organizations across the world unite in an effort to raise awareness about maternal mental health; in many countries, as many of 1 in 5 new mothers experience some type of perinatal mood and anxiety disorder (PMADs). These illnesses frequently go unnoticed and untreated, often with tragic and long-term consequences to both mother and child.

First Responders Day

Vaughan Fire & Rescue Services (VFRS) submitted a request for proclamation to annually re-occur on the date of May 1.

May 1 is recognized nationally to focus on the important work of first responders including paramedics, communications officers, nurses and other health care staff.

Previous Reports/Authority

Information Management Month

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) - February 14, 2023](#)

Autism Awareness Month

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – March 8, 2022](#)

World Pi (Primary Immunodeficiencies) Week

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – April 18, 2023](#)

GBS/CIDP Awareness Month

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – April 18, 2023](#)

Analysis and Options

All of the proclamation requests meet 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 regard to these requests.

Operational Impact

The Communications, Marketing and Engagement team will oversee the promotion of these proclamations on corporate channels.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the requests, staff is recommending that the following be proclaimed:

- a) the month of April as "Information Management Month" on an annual basis going forward;
- b) the month of April 2024 as "Autism Awareness Month";
- c) the week of April 14 to April 20, 2024 as "National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week";
- d) the week of April 22 to April 29, 2024 as "World PI (Primary Immunodeficiencies) Week";
- e) the month of May as "GBS/CIDP Awareness Month";
- f) the day of May 1, 2024 as "World Maternal Mental Health Day"; and
- g) May 1 as "First Responders Day" on an annual basis going forward.

Additionally, staff recommend that the proclamations be posted on the City's website and that the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department be directed to promote the above noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

For more information, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281

Attachments

1. Proclamation Request Form from EIMS, Office of the City Clerk
2. Proclamation Request Form from Waves of Changes for Autism in partnership with Autism Ontario
3. Proclamation Request Form from Vaughan Animal Services
4. Proclamation Request Form from Immunity Canada
5. Proclamation Request Form from GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada
6. Proclamation Request Form from Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative
7. Proclamation Request Form from VFRS

Prepared by

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

Approved by



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

Reviewed by



Gus Michaels, on behalf of
Nick Spensieri, City Manager