



**CITY OF VAUGHAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 7, 2024**

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CITY OF VAUGHAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

MINUTES

Council convened in the Municipal Council Chamber in Vaughan, Ontario, at 3:57 p.m.

The following members were present:

Steven Del Duca, Mayor, Chair
Regional Councillor Linda Jackson, Deputy Mayor
Regional Councillor Mario Ferri
Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco
Regional Councillor Gino Rosati
Councillor Marilyn Iafrate
Councillor Adriano Volpentesta
Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca
Councillor Chris Ainsworth
Councillor Gila Martow

52. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor DeFrancesca
seconded by Councillor Ainsworth

THAT the agenda be confirmed.

CARRIED

53. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was no disclosure of interest by any member.

54. PROTECTING VAUGHAN'S VULNERABLE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
(Committee of the Whole, Report No. 17, Item 21, May 7, 2024)

MOVED by Councillor Martow
seconded by Regional Councillor Jackson

That the following recommendation from the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 7, 2024, be approved:

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The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution of Mayor Steven Del Duca, dated May 7, 2024:

Resolution

Whereas, safeguarding the quality of life for all Vaughan residents by combating all forms of hate, intimidation, intolerance, discrimination and the incitement of violence requires an immediate call to action;

Whereas, acts of intimidation such as the vandalism at Chabad House of Maple on November 14th, 2023 and the bomb threat targeting the Jaffari Community Centre on November 16th, 2023 are examples of the unacceptable rise in hateful behaviour against specific communities and their places of worship in our community;

Whereas, in March 2024, two large-scale protests took place in Thornhill, in close proximity to synagogues, schools, childcare facilities and congregate care facilities, leading to Vaughan residents to have feelings of considerable distress and intimidation;

Whereas, Mayor Del Duca, Councillor Martow, MP Melissa Lantsman and MPP Laura Smith released a joint statement on March 6th, 2024 stating that the targeting of places of worship, schools and childcare facilities is unacceptable;

Whereas, all levels of government have a responsibility to work together to protect vulnerable social infrastructure, as exemplified in the "Safe Zones Around Religious Institutions Act, 2022" (Schedule 9 of Bill 86, the "Our London Family Act - Working Together to Combat Islamophobia and Hatred, 2022," which was developed by the National Council of Canadian Muslims and was debated in the Ontario Legislature in 2022) which proposed a \$25,000 fine being imposed on any person who performed an act of intimidation or disturbance, distributed hate propaganda, or uttered threats within 50 metres of the boundary of a place of worship;

Whereas, on December 17, 2021, Bill C-3 received Royal Assent. This federal legislation amended the Criminal Code of Canada to create a new intimidation offence that protects health care workers or persons seeking health care services against intimidating conduct including threats or other forms of violence that are intended to provoke fear or to interfere with the duties of a health care worker or to impede a person from receiving health care services, and carries with it a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment;

Whereas, in 2023, Calgary City Council passed the Safe and Inclusive Access Bylaw, which is designed to help ensure safe and inclusive access to municipal recreation facilities and libraries by providing 100 metre "access zones" around these facilities;

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Whereas, no contemplated measures to protect vulnerable social infrastructure and the residents who use this infrastructure will prevent the right to peaceful protest or demonstration.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council direct staff to return at the earliest possible time, with a bylaw to be considered and voted upon by Council that prohibits demonstrations of a nature that intimidate, incite hatred, violence, intolerance or discrimination within 100 meters, or within reasonable distance, of a religious institution, school, childcare centre, hospital or congregate care facility is located; and
2. That Council directs City staff to ensure the bylaw provides that any person who violates the aforementioned condition be fined up to the maximum amount permissible, not to exceed \$100,000; and
3. That nothing in the bylaw should prevent peaceful protests or demonstrations, including those that occur as part of a labour union strike; and
4. That Council directs staff to engage with York Regional Police regarding the potential for a joint enforcement framework concurrent with the development of the bylaw; and
5. That a Special Council meeting be called immediately following this Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of ratifying this item, and that any requirements of the Procedure By-law be waived.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY UPON A RECORDED VOTE

YEAS

Councillor Ainsworth
Regional Councillor Ferri
Councillor Volpentesta
Regional Councillor Rosati
Regional Councillor Jackson
Councillor Martow
Regional Councillor Racco
Councillor DeFrancesca
Councillor Iafrate
Mayor Del Duca

NAYS

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55. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

MOVED by Councillor DeFrancesca
seconded by Councillor Iafrate

THAT By-law Number 083-2024, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting on May 7, 2024, be passed.

CARRIED

56. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Volpentesta
seconded by Councillor DeFrancesca

THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:02 p.m.

CARRIED

Steven Del Duca, Mayor

Todd Coles, City Clerk