

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

TITLE: RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, safeguarding and advocating for the wellbeing of neighbourhoods, residents and their property, while resourcing the needs of York Regional Police (YRP) and community safety organizations has been a critical priority since the start of the 2022 to 2026 Council term; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan's 2022 Citizen Satisfaction Survey identifies public safety as a leading issue for residents (a jump to 14 per cent of respondents, from only 5 per cent in 2018); and

Whereas, Vaughan Council knows community safety is fundamental to city-building, and has made this issue a pillar of the 2022-2026 Term of Council Strategic Plan, endorsed the creation of a new Community Safety Advisory Committee and held a series of community safety town hall meetings in wards across Vaughan; and

Whereas, in the 2022-2026 council term, Vaughan's Regional Councillors have consistently supported increases to the YRP's operating budget to support police officers in their efforts to keep our community safe and stop creeping lawlessness; and

Whereas, as part of Vaughan's ongoing public safety efforts, in January 2023, Mayor Del Duca also wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau calling on the federal government to urgently modernize Canada's bail system to ensure that dangerous offenders are kept off streets from committing crimes ranging from gun violence to home break-ins and auto thefts. In March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau responded to this correspondence echoing these concerns. In spring 2023, the federal Ministry of Justice announced

efforts to bring about targeted reforms to the Criminal Code to update Canada's bail system; and

Whereas, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on June 1, 2023 that the first Friday of June each year will be proclaimed as the National Day Against Gun Violence to honor the victims of gun violence, bring awareness to the crisis in Canada, and encourage Canadians to come together to find solutions; and

Whereas, this year, the City of Toronto proclaimed June 7, 2024 as “National Day Against Gun Violence”; and

Whereas, other landmarks such as the CN Tower were illuminated white in recognition of National Day Against Gun Violence; and

Whereas, community organizations such as ANCHOR work tirelessly to educate and raise awareness of gun violence in our community.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council directs City staff to recognize National Day Against Gun Violence, subject to the availability of corporate resources, including but not limited to an annual illumination on the first Friday of June each year.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

There are no financial impacts associated with this Member’s Resolution.

Attachments

N/A