

**DATE:** November 12, 2024

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

**RE: COMMUNICATION – Committee of the Whole (2), November 12, 2024**

**Item # 5**

**VAUGHAN PILOT DESIGNATED HERITAGE PROPERTY GRANT PROGRAM – REVISED**

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### **Recommendation**

1. THAT Recommendation 3 of Committee of the Whole (2) Report titled "VAUGHAN PILOT DESIGNATED HERITAGE PROPERTY GRANT PROGRAM – REVISED" be revised to:

"THAT Council approve a reserve fund for the program with an initial \$200,000 from tax revenue plus possible donations to the heritage grant program."

### **Background**

Ontario properties designated under Parts IV, Conservation of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, or V, Heritage Conservation Districts, of the *Ontario Heritage Act* ("OHA") can apply for the Heritage Property Grant Program.

Section 37 of the OHA gives Council the authority to enter into heritage easement agreements with property owners. These agreements protect properties of cultural heritage value by setting restrictions on modifications that may alter or damage heritage features. The purpose is to preserve these elements and maintain the character of heritage properties and establish the necessary security, often a letter of credit, to preserve, maintain, and repair those aspects of cultural heritage. The Letter of Credit is only used in cases where the Owner does not follow the agreed-upon restoration plan, does not fix damage to the property, or carries out required maintenance or rebuilding of cultural elements. If these events occur, the letter of credit is used for the City to complete those works themselves. Once repairs are completed, any funds left over from the letter of credit are returned to the financial institution.

Staff want to clarify that Letter of Credit funds will not be directly part of the proposed budget of the Pilot Program. While such funds in the form of a letter of credit will not be included in the proposed budget for the Pilot Program, applicants to the Pilot Program

must be designated under Sections V and VI of the OHA and, therefore, may be subject to an easements which may include a Letter of Credit. If an Applicant defaults on the their agreement in the letter of understanding, and they are subject to an easement under the OHA which includes a Letter of Credit, the City can use the letter of to complete any restoration on the property and reimburse any city funds provided, including grant dollars, used to complete the project.

For more information, contact Shahrzad Davoudi-Stirke, Manager of Urban Design and Cultural Heritage, ext.8653

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haiqing Xu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager,  
Planning and Growth Management