

## **MEMBERS' RESOLUTION**

### **Committee of the Whole Report (1)**

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**DATE:** Tuesday, December 03, 2024

**TITLE: VAUGHAN SUPPORT OF THE 2026 JCC MACCABI GAMES**

**FROM:**

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Councillor Gila Martow

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**Whereas**, the JCC Maccabi Games will bring together over 2,000 Jewish teen athletes from across North America, including local Vaughan youth, to compete in Olympic-style events. Beyond athletic achievement, the Games are a celebration of Jewish identity, resilience, and community-building at a time when collective connection is of the utmost importance; and

**Whereas**, the Toronto Prosserman JCC and Vaughan's Schwartz/Reisman Centre, both non-profit organizations, have announced that Toronto will host the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games, with competitions occurring across Vaughan, including at City of Vaughan venues. The games will take place in the Greater Toronto Area from August 2-6, 2026; and

**Whereas**, Vaughan is home to an active, engaged, thoughtful and dedicated Jewish and Israeli community committed to fostering inclusive, tolerant and welcoming neighbourhoods for all people. Vaughan's total Jewish and Israeli population constitutes 23 per cent of the entire Jewish and Israeli people in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area; and

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan officially recognizes Jewish Heritage Month and holds an annual flag-raising ceremony for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Celebrations like the City's annual menorah lighting ceremonies to mark Chanukah have become much-anticipated traditions enjoyed by people of all backgrounds and faiths; and

**Whereas,** City of Vaughan staff have begun engaging the organizers to support the successful delivery of the 2026 JCC Maccabi games, including showcasing and touring City venues for the Games; and

**Whereas,** the Council-approved Vaughan Destination Master Plan identifies the critical importance that both sport and cultural tourism initiatives - like the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games - play in shaping Vaughan's growing tourism market, creating a ripple effect of economic development opportunities, including demand for local hotels, restaurants and shopping venues.

**It is therefore recommended:**

1. THAT the City of Vaughan officially recognizes, welcomes and congratulates the organizers of the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games on the news that Vaughan will have a critical role in helping host the competitions; and
2. THAT City of Vaughan staff will continue to work in collaboration with the organizers for the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games to identify City of Vaughan venues and initiatives to ensure the successful delivery of these events; and
3. THAT the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department leverages corporate communications channels to promote the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games; and
4. THAT the Economic Development department reports back to Council on the economic impact of the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games following its conclusion; and
5. THAT this Members' Resolution is approved by Council.

**Financial and Staff Resource Impact:** There are no new budget and staffing requests related to this Member's Resolution.

**Attachments:** September 2021 [Vaughan Destination Master Plan](#)