

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Council

DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

TITLE: HEAD OF COUNCIL DELEGATION TO ISRAEL 2025

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

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

Whereas, in December 2024, Vaughan Council unanimously endorsed a Members' Resolution by Mayor Steven Del Duca and Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow to support the JCC Maccabi Games, which will bring together more than 2,000 Jewish teen athletes 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, Council adopted unanimously a resolution co-authored by Mayor Del Duca and Councillor Martow immediately following the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks, in which the City of Vaughan pledged to stand with the people of Israel against the ongoing, egregious acts of violence from Hamas; and

Whereas, Council further adopted a unanimous resolution on June 25, 2024, arising from a Member's Resolution presented by Mayor Del Duca, which protects vulnerable social infrastructure, including places of worship, schools, childcare facilities and healthcare facilities, from demonstrations which cause intimidation, including, but not limited to, actions or expressions that incite hatred, violence, intolerance or discrimination; and

Whereas, Mayor Del Duca has been invited by Jewish community leaders to participate in a February 2025 Mission to Israel to strengthen awareness, support and solidarity among the global community in support of Israel amidst the ongoing emergency; and

Whereas, Section 226.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, states that the Head of Council, as chief executive officer, of the municipality shall “*act as the representative of the municipality both within and outside the municipality, and promote the municipality locally, nationally and internationally*” and that the Head of Council is to also “*participate in and foster activities that enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and its residents*”; and

Whereas, this 2025 Head of Council delegation is consistent with the City of Vaughan’s long-standing record of maintaining and fostering stronger relations between Vaughan and the State of Israel through international missions to foster shared opportunities. During a 2019 City of Vaughan-led business mission to Israel, Vaughan renewed an economic and cultural partnership with the City of Ramla, Israel, first signed in 1993; and

Whereas, Vaughan’s continued leadership and representation on the critically important issue of combatting anti-Semitism remains a priority for residents.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT, in accordance with Corporate Policy 02.C.02, the Head of Council be part of a delegation to Israel in February 2025, with supplemental programming to maximize the Head of Council’s presence in Israel, funded to approximately \$20,000 through Economic Development; and
2. That, the Mayor and one Head of Council support staff participate in the February 2025 Delegation to Israel; and
3. That the Strategic Initiatives Portfolio be directed to help identify and arrange additional stakeholder and intergovernmental relations meetings and engagements for Vaughan’s Mayor while in Israel; and
4. That a post-delegation report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting highlighting outcomes of the mission be presented; and
5. That the Economic Development department be directed to plan for a future City of Vaughan Economic and Cultural Mission that will include a delegation of Councillors and City staff during the 2022 to 2026 Council term.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

Existing budget will be used to fund participation to support this initiative

Attachments

N/A