



Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: UPDATE AND PROPOSED GOVERNANCE: YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT AND INITIATIVES

FROM:

Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to: first, update the Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion (AHDI) Advisory Committee to expand the Advisory Committee's objectives to include youth engagement and youth initiatives; second, to appoint up to two (2) additional youth members to the AHDI Advisory Committee following a public recruit; and, third, to re-name the AHDI Advisory Committee as the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee consistent with the City's new Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit.

Report Highlights

- During the June 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting, Vaughan Council received a presentation on engaging youth in Vaughan and further directed staff to report back further on ways to engage and support youth initiatives.
- In June 2024, a matrixed Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit representing staff across the corporation was established. This business unit is well positioned to support the development of youth initiatives and engagement, helping to coordinate this work with other departments in the corporation.
- The mandate of the new Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit aligns with a proposed renewed and expanded mandate for the AHDI Advisory Committee to become the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee, with the Committee's work to be further informed by the appointment of up to two additional youth members.
- At a special meeting of the AHDI Advisory Committee on December 16, 2024, members unanimously endorsed a presentation outlining the City's plans to renew the mandate and governance of the AHDI Advisory Committee to become the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee.

Recommendations

1. THAT the Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee be renamed the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee effective immediately; and
2. THAT the amended Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (Attachment 1) be approved; and
3. THAT up to two (2) additional youth members be appointed to serve on the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee, following a public recruitment.

Background

During the June 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting, Vaughan Council received a presentation on engaging youth in Vaughan and further directed staff to report back further on ways to engage and support youth initiatives.

Vaughan resident Wasib Dheendsa presented during the June 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole (2) on the matter of engaging local youth. The presentation included a series of thoughtful recommendations, including but not limited to, youth representation on Council committees.

In June 2024, a matrixed Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit representing staff across the corporation was established to advance the City's inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility work. This business unit is well positioned to support the development of youth initiatives and engagement, helping to coordinate this work with other departments in the corporation.

Following a public recruitment, in September 2024, a Manager, Inclusion and Community Outreach joined the corporation to oversee the Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit. The Manager, Inclusion and Community Outreach oversee the Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit. This role is helping guide the implementation of several main Council-approved documents.

Leveraging existing budget, the following positions were also created to support in the advancement of the inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility mandate:

- Senior Advisor, Engagement (Inclusion and Community Outreach)
- Project Lead, Workforce Equity and Inclusion
- Economic Development Officer
- Recreation Lead, Events

The mandate of the new Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit aligns with a proposed renewed and expanded mandate for the AHDI Advisory Committee to become the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee.

In December 2022, Council-approved the creation of the Anti-Hate Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee as a forum for consultation, feedback and discussion on matters of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and anti-hate in the city.

As part of the City's public recruitment process for membership to the AHDI Advisory Committee, the City sought voices from equity-deserving and historically marginalized communities, including but not limited to youth members. Furthermore, the AHDI Advisory Committee's objectives call on the membership to further engage local school boards to help advance the Committee's work.

At a special meeting of the AHDI Advisory Committee on December 16, 2024, members endorsed a presentation outlining the City's plans to renew the mandate and governance of the AHDI Advisory Committee to become the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee. Members agreed that this will further empower all voices of the community, including our youth and bring fresh perspectives and insight to this committee. The following motion was introduced at that meeting by AHDI Chair and Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow, which AHDI members unanimously endorsed:

- *“That the members of the Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee endorse the City of Vaughan’s plans to renew the mandate and governance of this advisory committee to become the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee, which will further empower all voices of the community, including our youth, as outlined in the City staff report presented during the December 16, 2024, meeting of the Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.”*

Previous Reports/Authority

December 12, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) Report – [Non-Statutory Committees for the 2022-2026 Term of Council](#)

Analysis and Options

The June 2024 establishment of the new matrixed Inclusion and Community Outreach business unit coincides with the June 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole (2) deputation on engaging youth.

Furthermore, as the corporation enters the mid-term of the 2022 to 2026 Council Term, renewing the mandate for an Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee, with the addition of two (2) new youth members, will help ensure the Committee serves as a critical forum for discussion on youth engagement and youth initiatives, that are reflective of the diversity of the youth population. In alignment with other municipalities in the GTHA, youth refers to those 14 to 24 years of age. The proposals included in this report will also allow City staff to administratively act on addressing youth engagement and initiatives, including those outlined in the June 2024 presentation.

Attachment one (1) reflects the proposed and updated Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee.

Financial Impact

N/A

Operational Impact

City staff from across the corporation continue to support the ADHI Advisory Committee. They will continue to do so as part of the renewed mandate for the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee. Staff's efforts will continue to be guided by Council-approved initiatives, including the 2022-2026 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

A renewed mandate for the Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee that includes objectives to pursue youth initiatives and youth engagement will better position City staff and committee members to set agendas that invite the participation of stakeholder associations, community groups and even other government levels to inform the Committee's work and explore best practices from other jurisdictions.

This effort is in keeping with a founding objective of the AHDI Advisory Committee which calls on City staff and Committee members to:

- *“Foster a relationship of shared ideas and experiences with similar committees at other municipalities in York Region, York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board.”*

Conclusion

Vaughan City Council has an extensive history of supporting local youth. The proposals outlined in this report will help build on Council's record and ensure that the appropriate resources, City staff and governance framework are in place to foster continued discussions and deliver recommendations to support local youth engagement and initiatives.

By establishing a renewed mandate for an Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee with the addition of up to two new youth members, Vaughan Council will be able to build off the institutional knowledge of existing members and the work of the AHDI Advisory Committee, with new ideas to inform the members' work for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Council term.

The Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee would follow the same scheduled meetings for 2025, allowing for this renewed mandate work to begin.

For more information, please contact: Rouya Botlani, Manager, Inclusion and Community Outreach (rouya.botlani@vaughan.ca).

Attachment

1. December 2024 Proposed and Updated Mandate and Terms of Reference: Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee

Prepared by

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