

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Council

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

TITLE: VAUGHAN STRONG: FURTHER ACTION TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT VAUGHAN, ONTARIO AND CANADIAN BUSINESSES

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, despite the proven promise of the special relationship between Canada and the U.S. – a relationship that people, communities and nations from around the world depend on for stability, prosperity and opportunity – relations continue to be undermined and placed further at risk because of the ongoing statements and actions by America's president meant to undermine Canadian sovereignty and damage both Canadian and American industries, companies, their employees and consumers; and

Whereas, Vaughan Council took urgent action by unanimously endorsing Mayor Del Duca's Feb. 5, 2025, Member's Resolution – *Protect Vaughan, Ontario and Canadian Businesses* – in response to those tariffs and continued threats of more tariffs by America's president, who is actively undermining Canada's economic well-being and sovereignty; and

Whereas, because of that critical Feb. 5, 2025, Member's Resolution by Mayor Del Duca, City staff brought forward a procurement strategy on March 4, 2025, which was also unanimously endorsed by Vaughan Council, that bans U.S suppliers and prioritizes the purchase of Canadian products, goods and services by the City of Vaughan in response to U.S. tariffs; and

Whereas, since the American trade crisis is far from over, all government leaders must continue taking action to identify, demonstrate and implement innovative, resourceful

and effective strategies that stand up for local, provincial and national job creators and the quality goods and services they produce and deliver daily; and

Whereas, the recommendations outlined in this latest Member's Resolution demonstrate that all options must be on the table to achieve the unwavering goal of eliminating U.S. tariffs to guarantee Vaughan, Ontario and Canada businesses, industries and workers remain competitive, profitable and strong.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT staff prepare a letter from Mayor Steven Del Duca to send to the Premier of Ontario requesting the Province of Ontario add the promotion of Canadian, Ontario and local goods and businesses as a Provincial Priority to the Strong Mayor Provincial Priority Regulation, O. Reg. 580/22;
2. THAT staff prepare a letter from Mayor Steven Del Duca, and the Tourism Vaughan Corporation, to send to the Premier of Ontario requesting the Province of Ontario reinstate and make permanent the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit that would allow individuals to get back up to 20 per cent of their eligible Ontario accommodation expenses;
3. THAT staff prepare a letter from Mayor Steven Del Duca, on behalf of Vaughan City Council, to send to the Federal Government requesting that the Federal Government enhance legislation regarding the labelling of Canadian goods;
4. THAT the City's Strategic Initiatives Portfolio develop a Vaughan Strong Buy Local strategy and distribute a Vaughan Strong Buy Local product label that retailers can affix to products in support of Canadian and local businesses and consumers;
5. THAT the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, in consultation with the Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives, be delegated authority to implement promotional initiatives, including community events and the use of City-owned community spaces, in support of local businesses;
6. THAT the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, in consultation with the City Manager, be authorized to set aside the enforcement of the provision of any City of Vaughan By-law that would be required to support the above resolutions, provided that public safety is maintained;
7. THAT staff be authorized to use the unencumbered portion of the Municipal Accommodation Tax to implement the foregoing;
8. THAT the Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre give greater consideration to local small businesses that buy and sell Canadian products when distributing the provincial Starter Company Plus Grants; and

9. THAT staff consider and identify any other opportunities to support Vaughan's local businesses and enable our local businesses and residents to buy and sell Canadian.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A