

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

**TITLE: ANNUAL PROCLAMATION OF OCT. 16 AS TREAT
ACCESSIBLY PREPARATION DAY**

FROM:

Deputy Mayor Linda Jackson

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is committed to building a more inclusive, compassionate and accessible community for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities;

Whereas, Vaughan has been nationally recognized for its accessibility leadership, including achieving Gold Certification from the Rick Hansen Foundation for several municipal and library facilities;

Whereas, Deputy Mayor Linda Jackson introduced a Member's Resolution which led to the promotion of the Treat Accessibly initiative on an annual basis at Committee of the Whole (1) on Oct. 5, 2021, which was approved by Council on Oct. 20, 2021;

Whereas, Vaughan's Accessibility Advisory Committee provides important guidance in implementing the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and advises Council on identifying and removing barriers in municipal policies, programs and services;

Whereas, the Treat Accessibly initiative was started in 2017 by the Padulo family in Ontario and has grown into a national grassroots movement that encourages Canadians to make Halloween safer and more inclusive for children and youth with disabilities;

Whereas, the initiative calls on households to distribute treats in a way that accommodates children with mobility, sensory or other challenges, such as by providing

barrier-free access to front doors and displaying the Treat Accessibly lawn sign available at www.treataccessibly.com;

Whereas, over 400,000 children in Canada identify with having a disability that may prevent them from fully participating in Halloween traditions without accessible accommodations;

Whereas, the City of Vaughan has previously promoted Treat Accessibly through public communications and Council support, and continues to lead by example in championing barrier-free community events; and

Whereas, declaring Oct. 16 as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day annually would align Vaughan with municipalities across Canada that have committed to fostering awareness and action in advance of Halloween.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council proclaims Oct. 16 of each year as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day, encouraging all residents to take steps to ensure Halloween is safe and accessible for all children and youth;
2. That Council directs the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department to promote Treat Accessibility Preparation Day through corporate communications channels; and
3. That this resolution be forwarded to the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

Existing operating budget will be leveraged to implement the above.

Attachments

1. Proclamation Request – Treat Accessibly Preparation Day