

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 2, 2019**

Item 8, Report No. 27, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 2, 2019.

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#### **8. PROCLAMATION REQUEST WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated September 24, 2019:**

##### **Recommendations**

1. That October 2, 2019 be proclaimed as “Wrongful Conviction Day”;  
and,
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website.

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUEST  
WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY**

**FROM:**

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

**ACTION:** DECISION

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**Purpose**

To seek Council approval to proclaim October 2, 2019 as Wrongful Conviction Day and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website.

**Report Highlights**

- Respond to the proclamation request received from Innocence Canada.
- Proclamation requested for October 2, 2019.

**Recommendations**

1. That October 2, 2019 be proclaimed as "Wrongful Conviction Day"; and,
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website.

**Background**

Correspondence was received from a representative for Innocence Canada on August 22, 2019 making the request for proclamation.

The purpose of Wrongful Conviction Day is to spread awareness about wrongful convictions and the effects these convictions have on individuals, their families and society. In proclaiming this day, Innocence Canada aims to decrease the amount of

wrongful convictions in Canada by encouraging the justice system to address issues that contribute to wrongful convictions.

Council has previously granted this request.

### **Previous Reports/Authority**

[Committee of the Whole – September 17, 2018](#)

### **Analysis and Options**

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by an organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act."

### **Financial Impact**

Not applicable.

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that October 2, 2019 be proclaimed as Wrongful Conviction Day and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website.

**For more information**, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk, x8281

### **Attachment**

1. Correspondence from Innocence Canada, received on August 22, 2019

### **Prepared by**

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280



Innocence Canada

RECEIVED  
AUG 22 2019  
CLERK'S DEPT.

Dear Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua,

My name is Mabel Pastrana, a Criminal Justice and Public Policy student from the University of Guelph, and a volunteer for Innocence Canada (formerly the Association in Defence of the Wrongfully Convicted). I am writing to you on behalf of Innocence Canada to ask if you would proclaim October 2<sup>nd</sup> as Wrongful Conviction Day in the city of Vaughan.

The purpose of Wrongful Conviction Day is to spread awareness about wrongful convictions and the effects these convictions have on individuals, their families, and the society at large. Through Wrongful Conviction Day, Innocence Canada aims to decrease the amount of wrongful convictions in Canada by encouraging the justice system to address issues that contribute to wrongful convictions.

Innocence Canada is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 and have been responsible for exonerating 24 wrongly convicted individuals. Amongst these exonerees are David Milgaard, Romeo Phillion, Steven Truscott and Guy Paul Morin. There is an undetermined number of individuals imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. Nobody is exempt from the possibility of being wrongfully convicted.

We hope that you would be able to offer us assistance in our mission to declaring October 2nd as Wrongful Conviction day across Canada. Numerous cities have joined us in our efforts such as Toronto, Oakville, Ajax, Pickering, Orillia, etc. Please visit <http://www.innocencecanada.com/> for more information on the organization, and feel free to contact me if you have further questions at [mpastran@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mpastran@uoguelph.ca) or

I look forward to hearing from you,

Mabel Pastrana  
B.A (Hons.), Criminal Justice and Public Policy  
University of Guelph