

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING/HALF-MASTING
REQUEST
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to proclaim the date of December 6, 2019 as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, that a purple flag be flown at City Hall for the duration of that day, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation through the corporate channels.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the proclamation and flag raising request received from Yellow Brick House on October 16, 2019.
- The City of Vaughan already commemorates the date of December 6, 2019, however there is not an official proclamation.
- The symbolic purple flag will be raised and then half-masted for the duration of the day, along with all other flags at City Hall.

Recommendations

1. That December 6, 2019 be proclaimed as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women;

2. That a purple flag be flown and half-masted at City Hall for the duration of December 6, 2019; and,
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation through the corporate channels.

Background

Half-Masting of Flags for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is commemorated at the City of Vaughan by half-masting flags at City Hall and all associated City facilities, including Fire Stations, which is within the guidelines of the current Flag Raising/Half-Masting Policy ([Policy AD-014](#)). This Policy follows the protocol established by the government of Canada. This date remembers and honours the 14 women who lost their lives and those that were injured as a result of the gender-based violence that took place on December 6, 1989 at l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal.

Proclamation and Flag Raising/Half-Masting Request by Yellow Brick House

Yellow Brick House provides services and prevention programs to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by violence. The core services provided include emergency shelters, 24-hour crisis/support line, community counselling and support services, and public education.

The organization is requesting an official proclamation for the date of December 6, 2019, as well as a symbolic purple flag to be flown at City Hall. As per the Flag Raising/Half-Masting Policy, the purple flag will be lowered to half-mast along with all other flags at City Hall. The organization both understands and is agreeable to the half-masting.

Previous Reports/Authority

Not applicable.

Analysis and Options

The proclamation and flag raising request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy and Flag Raising/Half-Masting Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters

over which the City has jurisdictions or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter”; and,

“Flags of non-partisan, non-profit, charitable organizations shall be flown at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance on the understanding that the individual flag will not be flown for a period longer than one week”.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that December 6, 2019 be proclaimed as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, that a purple flag be flown and half-masted at City Hall for the duration of December 6, 2019, and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and the Corporate Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation through the corporate channels.

For more information, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281

Attachment

1. Correspondence from the Executive Director, Yellow Brick House, received on October 16, 2019

Prepared by

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