

Item:



Council Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 19, 2018

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST
ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH**

FROM:

Todd Coles, City Clerk

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to proclaim October 2018 as Islamic Heritage Month, for the City of Vaughan to participate in a flag raising event at City Hall for Islamic Heritage Month (on a date to be later determined), and to post the proclamation on the City's website and the City Page Online.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the proclamation and flag raising request received from Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Vaughan.
- Proclamation requested for the month of October.
- Flag raising event requested for a date to be determined in October.

Recommendations

1. That October 2018 be proclaimed as Islamic Heritage Month;
2. That the City of Vaughan participate in a flag raising event for Islamic Heritage Month on a date to be later determined, with the flag being raised for a period up to and no longer than one week at City Hall; and
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the City Page Online.

Background

Correspondence was received from Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Vaughan in the Office of the City Clerk on June 7, 2018.

The government of Ontario has declared October to be Islamic Heritage Month. Proclaiming Islamic Heritage Month in Vaughan will provide an opportunity for the public to reflect, celebrate and learn about Islamic history, as well as learn about the roles and contributions of Muslims in their community.

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

"In recognition of the ethnic diversity of the residents of the municipality the City of Vaughan will fly at the Civic Centre the flag of any nation, country or ethnic group on the national day or on the anniversary of a special occasion, upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance by that nation, or ethnic group or its representatives."

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

This proclamation and flag raising request would reflect the directive of the government of Ontario by declaring October to be Islamic Heritage Month.

Conclusion

Staff is asking for Council approval to proclaim October 2018 as Islamic Heritage Month, for the City of Vaughan to participate in a flag raising event at City Hall for Islamic Heritage Month (on a date to be later determined), and to post the proclamation on the City's website and the City Page Online.

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

Attachment

1. Correspondence from Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Vaughan, dated June 4, 2018

Prepared by

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



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM JAMA'AT
Canada

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ^{as}
and promote "Love for all, Hatred for none"

To: Clerk's Office

City of Vaughan

Jun 4, 2018

Re: Flag hosting and Proclamation of Islamic Heritage Month

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2018

CLERK'S DEPT.

Assalaamo alaikum wa Rahamtullah (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon you)!

Respectable Mr Coles,

Islam is a religion with around 1.8 billion followers globally. It has a diverse and rich heritage. To celebrate the vibrant Islamic Heritage, the government of Ontario has declared October to be the Islamic Heritage Month.

Vaughan is home to many Muslims. The Baitul Islam is a mosque in Vaughan run by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in Canada. It was inaugurated on October, 17th 1992 in the presence of the Khalifatul Masih IV and many Members of Parliament. Furthermore, Vaughan is the city of the national headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at.

Islamic Heritage Month in Vaughan will provide an opportunity for the public to reflect, celebrate and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslims in their community. This new understanding will in turn help combat Islamophobia and other forms of hatred and bigotry, to build bridges of peace in our society.





AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM JAMA'AT
Canada

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmadsm
and promote "Love for all, Hatred for none"

In light of this, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at (Vaughan) wants to request that the month of October be proclaimed as Islamic Heritage Month along with a flag raising event to celebrate the month at the City Hall.

On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Vaughan, I will look forward to your help and support in this regard.

Yours truly,

Hira Islam

Secretary Tabligh (Outreach) Vaughan East, Women's Association

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Vaughan

