

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: HERITAGE VAUGHAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL – BENJAMIN VAUGHAN DAY**

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek direction from Committee with regards to a resolution of the Heritage Vaughan Committee from their meeting of June 10, 2020.

Report Highlights

- At their meeting of June 10, 2020, the Heritage Vaughan Committee passed a resolution requesting that Council review the decision to name the August Civic Holiday as Benjamin Vaughan Day.
- Council approved the naming of the August Civic Holiday as “Benjamin Vaughan Day” on December 10, 2013 (Item 31, Report No. 52).

Recommendations

The City Clerk provides the following recommendation on behalf of the Heritage Vaughan Committee:

1. That the Heritage Committee recommend to Council to re-examine the decision to use the August Civic Holiday to commemorate the life of black slave owner and anti-abolitionist Benjamin Vaughan and to engage with local communities on how best to commemorate our rich heritage.

Background

At the June 10, 2020, Heritage Vaughan Committee meeting, the Committee passed the following resolution to be forwarded to Council for consideration:

1. That the Heritage Committee recommend to Council to re-examine the decision to use the August Civic Holiday to commemorate the life of black slave owner and anti-abolitionist Benjamin Vaughan and to engage with local communities on how best to commemorate our rich heritage.

Previous Reports/Authority

[OBSERVANCE OF AUGUST CIVIC HOLIDAY AS BENJAMIN VAUGHAN DAY
\(Committee of the Whole, Item 31, Report No. 52, approved by Council on December 10, 2013\)](#)

Analysis and Options

On December 10th, 2013, Council approved a Member's Resolution to name the August statutory holiday as "Benjamin Vaughan Day". The Member's Resolution noted that the first Monday in August is a statutory holiday and was known simply as "Civic Holiday". Some municipalities in Ontario have chosen to retitle the day, as it is celebrated within their respective jurisdiction, in honour of an historical personage. For example, in the City of Toronto the date is observed as "Simcoe Day", to commemorate the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Naming the Civic Holiday in honour of a person adds historical colour to the day and a point of reference to any celebrations.

It was therefore recommended:

1. That within the City of Vaughan, the statutory holiday known presently as "Civic Holiday" be renamed "Benjamin Vaughan Day", and that information regarding the significance of the person so honoured be published on the City's website and other information media at the appropriate time and without any additional expense to the City; and
2. That this change be in effect as of August 2014.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no Regional impacts as a result of this report.

Conclusion

The City Clerk is forwarding the Heritage Vaughan Committee recommendation of June 10, 2020, for Council's consideration.

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

Attachments

Not applicable

Prepared by

Todd Coles, City Clerk, extension 8281