



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (2) – June 16, 2020
Title:	Renaming Benjamin Vaughan Day
Submitted by:	Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, Council continues working closely with residents, as well as community organizations, special interest groups and other levels of government to address the issue of anti-Black racism.

Whereas, the City of Vaughan places a great deal of importance on diversity, inclusion and the condemnation of racism in all its forms. We continue to forge connections and pursue opportunities that demonstrate our commitment to foster a community that is inclusive and truly appreciative of the diversity that enriches us.

Whereas, the City continues to champion a positive culture of diversity and inclusion through community gatherings such as our Black History Month celebration every February at Vaughan City Hall. This observance is recognized across the country as a result of a motion from the Hon. Jean Augustine, the first African Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons.

Whereas, our annual Culture Days festivities throughout September also honour and acknowledge the many cultures that thrive in Vaughan, including the rich traditions of the African and Caribbean communities in our city.

Whereas, in 2018, Vaughan Council endorsed the United Nations' proclamation to designate the years 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Whereas, with a continued focus on supporting an inclusive community, in March 2019, Vaughan became the first municipality in Canada to endorse the Leadership Accord on Gender Diversity. Developed by Electricity Human Resources Canada, the Accord is a public commitment by organizations to promote the values of diversity, equality and inclusion. The values set out in the Accord present an important opportunity to guide the City's efforts throughout the 2018 to 2022 Term of Council and beyond. Of note, the Accord sets out a series of guiding principles on policy and governance, education and workplace readiness, and recruitment and retention practices.

Whereas, to further the City's commitment to advancing a culture of co-operation, earlier this year, we endorsed and adopted the Vaughan Inclusion Charter in support of the Inclusion Charter for York Region, which is a community initiative to create a fair and equal environment for all. To ensure we achieve this, Council appointed a Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force.

Whereas, that same month, Council supported Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua's Member's Resolution to proclaim January 21 as Lincoln Alexander Day in Vaughan as a meaningful way to recognize this formidable individual who was the first Black Canadian to be elected as Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, to be appointed as a Cabinet Minister and, later, as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Whereas, our dedicated staff continuously work to develop an Inclusion and Diversity Framework. The City of Vaughan's Staff Inclusion Charter Committee was established and consists of a diverse group of City staff to develop this framework that will inform the Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force. The mandate of the Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force will be to provide guidance in policy

development that promotes awareness of diversity matters with an emphasis on improving equality and fostering greater inclusion of all citizen and stakeholder groups.

Whereas, while we have done much, we recognize there is still more work to be done.

It is therefore recommended:

1. *That Benjamin Vaughan Day, which marks the annual August Civic Holiday, be renamed in honour of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and a leading proponent of the Act Against Slavery.*
2. *That any other City-owned facilities named for Benjamin Vaughan be renamed and that City staff report back in accordance with corporate policies and any other operational matters.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor