

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2020

Item 33, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 29, 2020.

33. EMANCIPATION DAY IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution of Mayor Bevilacqua, dated June 16, 2020:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Mayor Bevilacqua

Whereas, the British Parliament abolished slavery in the British Empire as of August 1, 1834;

Whereas abolitionists and others who struggled against slavery, including those who arrived in Ontario by the underground railroad, have celebrated August 1 as Emancipation Day in the past;

Whereas, the years 2015 to 2024 have been designated by the United Nations as the International Decade for People of African Descent and in 2018, Vaughan Council endorsed this proclamation;

Whereas, the International Decade for People of African Descent provides a unique opportunity to highlight the important contributions that people of African descent have made to Canadian society, and also provides a platform for engaging in the fight against anti-Black racism, discrimination and the inequalities that Canadians of African descent continue to face;

Whereas, it is important to recognize the heritage of Canada's Black communities and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the City of Vaughan and all of Canada;

Whereas, each February, the City of Vaughan celebrates Black History Month and honours the men and women who have made lasting contributions to city-building and nation-building;

Whereas, the Province of Ontario proclaimed Emancipation Day in 2008;

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize August 1 formally as Emancipation Day and to observe it as a meaningful reminder of an abhorrent period in Canada's history in order to allow Vaughan residents and all Canadians to reflect upon the imperative to continue to commit to eliminate discrimination in all its forms;

It is therefore recommended that:

1. The Mayor proclaim August 1 Emancipation Day in Vaughan;
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamation on corporate communications channels.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – Committee of the Whole (2)
Title:	Emancipation Day in the City of Vaughan
Submitted by:	Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua
<p>Whereas, the British Parliament abolished slavery in the British Empire as of August 1, 1834;</p> <p>Whereas abolitionists and others who struggled against slavery, including those who arrived in Ontario by the underground railroad, have celebrated August 1 as Emancipation Day in the past;</p> <p>Whereas, the years 2015 to 2024 have been designated by the United Nations as the International Decade for People of African Descent and in 2018, Vaughan Council endorsed this proclamation;</p> <p>Whereas, the International Decade for People of African Descent provides a unique opportunity to highlight the important contributions that people of African descent have made to Canadian society, and also provides a platform for engaging in the fight against anti-Black racism, discrimination and the inequalities that Canadians of African descent continue to face;</p> <p>Whereas, it is important to recognize the heritage of Canada's Black communities and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the City of Vaughan and all of Canada;</p> <p>Whereas, each February, the City of Vaughan celebrates Black History Month and honours the men and women who have made lasting contributions to city-building and nation-building;</p> <p>Whereas, the Province of Ontario proclaimed Emancipation Day in 2008;</p> <p>Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize August 1 formally as Emancipation Day and to observe it as a meaningful reminder of an abhorrent period in Canada's history in order to allow Vaughan residents and all Canadians to reflect upon the imperative to continue to commit to eliminate discrimination in all its forms;</p> <p><i>It is therefore recommended that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Mayor proclaim August 1 Emancipation Day in Vaughan;</i> <i>2. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamation on corporate communications channels.</i> 	

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua