

DATE: June 29, 2020

TO: Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council

FROM: Mary Reali, Acting City Manager and Deputy City Manager, Community Services
Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works
Sunny Bains, Director, Recreation Services

RE: Naming of Jean Augustine Complex and Jean Augustine District Park

Background:

The City of Vaughan is committed to honouring individuals and organizations who have and continue to make a meaningful, significant and enduring contribution to our city as well as our nation and the world.

During a meeting of Committee of the Whole (2) on June 16, 2020, Council endorsed a Member's Resolution brought forward by Mayor Bevilacqua, that created an opportunity to name the complex consisting of the Rosemount Community Centre, The City Playhouse Theatre and Westmount Collegiate Institute and the district park.

Recommendation:

Staff researched, reviewed and analyzed potential naming options in accordance with corporate policies. Based on the different amenities and opportunities provided by the complex and the park, the Hon. Jean Augustine was identified as an appropriate figure in Canadian society for this naming distinction.

Ms. Augustine is a passionate educator, life-long public servant and a national trailblazer who, among her many formidable accomplishments, became the first African-Canadian woman elected to the Parliament of Canada as well as the first African-Canadian woman appointed to the federal cabinet.

In 2014, Ms. Augustine was the keynote speaker at the City of Vaughan's International Women's Day event and in 2019 met with Mayor Bevilacqua to discuss issues of diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism.

Therefore, City staff recommend:

1. THAT the City of Vaughan name the complex and district park (including soccer field and baseball diamond) in honour of Jean Augustine, PC, OOnt, CBE, CM

About Jean Augustine:

Born in Grenada, Ms. Augustine immigrated to Canada in 1960. She earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education from the University of Toronto. In 1993, Ms. Augustine was elected Member of Parliament for the constituency of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, serving until 2006. In 2002, Ms. Augustine was appointed Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women), and, in 2003, she became Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women). She later served as Assistant Deputy Speaker of Parliament until her retirement in 2006. Ms. Augustine is the first African-Canadian woman to be elected to parliament and appointed to cabinet.

In 2007, Ms. Augustine was nominated by the Government of Ontario to become the first Fairness Commissioner, a position created to advocate for Canadians with foreign professional credentials. She retired from the position in March 2015. In 2008, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education was established in the Faculty of Education at York University. Ms. Augustine also served as the National President of the Congress of Black Women of Canada. She has received multiple awards and recognitions for her work. Of note, Ms. Augustine is a Member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of multiple honorary doctorates.

City staff informed their counterparts at York Region District School Board and Westmount Collegiate Institute about the naming. They are supportive of the choice. Mayor Bevilacqua informed Ms. Augustine of the City's proposal.

Next Steps:

Upon Council's approval, signage that is consistent with park design standards will be updated at the adjacent park. The expenditure to install a new park sign is approximately \$1,500 and will be allocated from the existing parks operation budget. Online references and maps will also be updated.

The City will co-ordinate with the York Region District School Board to address signage at the complex.

Corporate and Strategic Communications will develop a full communications campaign to inform the public and stakeholder organizations about the naming. Recognizing that the City remains in a declared state of emergency as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, an event with all Members of Council, Ms. Augustine and community representatives will be held once it is safe to do so.

Contact:

For more information, please contact:

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