

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 09, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUESTS:
MS AWARENESS DAY, ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY,
EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH & PURPLE DAY, AND
PARKINSON AWARENESS MONTH**

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for proclamations and/or flag raising requests for: MS Awareness Day, Israel's Independence Day, Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day, and Parkinson Awareness Month.

Report Highlights

- Respond to requests from the York Region Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Community, the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), Epilepsy York Region and Parkinson Canada.
- Proclamations and flag raising events requested for dates between March and May 2020.

Recommendations

1. That May 6, 2020 be proclaimed as "MS Awareness Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the MS flag at Vaughan City Hall on May 6, 2020 for the balance of the day;
2. That April 29, 2020 be proclaimed as "Israel's Independence Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the national flag of Israel at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020 for the balance of the day;

3. That the month of March 2020 be proclaimed as “Epilepsy Awareness Month” and March 26, 2020 as “Purple Day”;
4. That the month of April 2020 be proclaimed as “Parkinson Awareness Month”; and,
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations and flag raisings through the various corporate channels.

Background

MS Awareness Day

Correspondence was received from the York Region MS Community on January 30, 2020 requesting a proclamation and flag raising.

The York Region MS Community services members in the York Region area with financial and equipment subsidies. The group is hoping that by creating further awareness of MS with events such as the proclamation and flag raising, funding to members will increase.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

Israel’s Independence Day

Correspondence was received from the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada) on February 10, 2020 requesting a proclamation and flag raising.

On April 29, 2020, the State of Israel will be celebrating its 72nd Independence Day. A flag raising event at Vaughan City Hall was requested to accompany this special occasion.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day

Correspondence was received from Epilepsy York Region on February 11, 2020 requesting a proclamation.

To combat the stigma surrounding those that have epilepsy may live with, the month of March, and specifically Purple Day (which is on March 26), has been celebrated internationally to raise awareness, dispel myths associated with epilepsy, and increase education.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

Parkinson Awareness Month

Correspondence was received from Parkinson Canada on February 20, 2020 requesting a proclamation.

Currently in Ontario, there is an estimated 40,000 people living with this neurodegenerative disease, which is a nearly 50% increase in the prevalence of Parkinson's in the last fifteen years (as per Parkinson Canada). The group is requesting a proclamation to lend recognition to the importance of educating the public on Parkinson disease, as well as raising awareness.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

Previous Reports/Authority

MS Awareness Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Israel's Independence Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Parkinson Awareness Month – [Committee of the Whole - March 2013](#)

Analysis and Options

MS Awareness Day

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

"Flags of non-partisan, non-profit, charitable organizations shall be flown at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance on the understanding that the individual flag will not be flown for a period longer than one week".

Israel's Independence Day

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”.

Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.

Parkinson Awareness Month

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.

Financial Impact

There is no expected financial impact with respect to this request.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending, having reviewed the requests in the order that they were received, that May 6, 2020 be proclaimed as MS Awareness Day and that the MS flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall on May 6, 2020; that April 29, 2020 be proclaimed as Israel’s Independence Day and the national flag of Israel be raised at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020; that the month of March be proclaimed as Epilepsy Awareness Month and March 26 as Purple Day; that the month of April be proclaimed as Parkinson

Awareness Month; and finally, that the proclamations be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations and flag raisings through the various corporate channels.

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

Attachments

1. Correspondence from York Region MS Community, received on January 30, 2020.
2. Correspondence from the Director of Government Relations, Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), received on February 10, 2020.
3. Correspondence from the Executive Director, Epilepsy York Region, received on February 11, 2020.
4. Correspondence from the Community Development Coordinator (Central Ontario), Parkinson Canada, received on February 20, 2020.

Prepared by

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