

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2020

Item 16 Report No. 11, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 11, 2020.

16. PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST - WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated March 9, 2020:

Recommendations

1. That April 2, 2020 be proclaimed as “World Autism Acceptance Day”;
2. That the City of Vaughan participate in a flag raising event at City Hall with Autism Ontario to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on a date and time to be determined; and
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation and flag raising through the corporate channels.

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 09, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST
WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY**

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to proclaim April 2, 2020 as World Autism Acceptance Day, that the City of Vaughan participate in a flag raising event at City Hall with Autism Ontario, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation and flag raising through the corporate channels.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the request received from Autism Ontario, received on March 2, 2020.
- Proclamation requested for April 2, 2020 and flag raising event requested on or around the same date.

Recommendations

1. That April 2, 2020 be proclaimed as "World Autism Acceptance Day";
2. That the City of Vaughan participate in a flag raising event at City Hall with Autism Ontario to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on a date and time to be determined; and,
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation and flag raising through the corporate channels.

Background

Autism Ontario is a prominent collective voice in representing the autism community in York Region. They are dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals they interact with.

Council has previously granted this request.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Council – March 19, 2019](#)

Analysis and Options

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy and Flag Raising/Half Mastings 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 jurisdiction 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".

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that April 2, 2020 be proclaimed as World Autism Acceptance Day, that the City of Vaughan participate in a flag raising event at City Hall with Autism Ontario on a date and time to be determined, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote this proclamation and flag raising through the corporate channels

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

Attachment

1. Correspondence from Chair, Raise the Flag Campaign, dated March 2, 2020

Prepared by

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280

City of Vaughan - Clerk's Office
2141 Major MacKenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1



RECEIVED

MAR 02 2020

CLERK'S DEPT.

March 2, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find attached the Request for Proclamation for the upcoming World Autism Awareness Day that we will be celebrating on April 2, 2020

Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism in the York Region, and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of chapters throughout the Province of Ontario.

We are guided by a Board of Directors, composed primarily of parents of individuals with autism, plus a host of volunteers and respected professionals who provide expertise and guidance to the organization on a volunteer basis.

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families and the professional with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.

Our York Region chapter proudly serves 11,000 individuals with autism and their families living in the region. We would like to count the City of Vaughan as a community partner that will join us in a flag raising.

Please let us know if you require any additional information from us.

Regards,

Rahila Chughtai
Chair; Raise the Flag Campaign
Autism Ontario York Region
[York Region - Autism Ontario](http://YorkRegion-AutismOntario.com)

PROCLAMATION

I, Mayor Bevilacqua of the City of Vaughan, do hereby proclaim April 2 as World Autism Acceptance Day

Whereas: World Autism Acceptance Day will be recognized on April 2, 2020 in Canada, thanks to Liberal Senator Jim Munson's Bill S-206, *An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day*; and

Whereas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 100,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community; and

ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means it not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each individual as well. A child with ASD will become an adult with ASD; and

Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support, information and opportunities for thousands of families across the province; and

Whereas: Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common Goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community; and

Therefore I, Mayor Bevilacqua, hereby declare April 2nd as World Autism Acceptance Day.

Dated at Vaughan, Ontario this 2nd day of April, 2020