

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2020

Item 17, Report No. 47, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 21, 2020.

17. REQUEST FROM EPILEPSY TORONTO

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the four-day limit be extended by the Chief Licensing Officer to a maximum of seven days for the *Halloween Nights of Lights* event and the 2020 Christmas fundraising event;
- 2) That the resolution of Councillor Carella dated October 14, 2020, be received; and
- 3) That the comments by Mr. Geoff Bobb, Executive Director, Epilepsy Toronto, Queen Street East, Toronto, be received.

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Carella

Whereas Epilepsy Toronto has planned a four-day-long fundraising event in Vaughan---Halloween Nights of Lights, which has been approved by appropriate municipal authorities; and

Whereas Epilepsy Toronto believes that an extension of the four-day limit will materially enhance their success in raising funds at a time when its (and other agencies') ability to operate is threatened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. The four-day limit be extended by the Chief Licensing Officer to a maximum of seven days on a case-by-case basis for this and other charities and not-for-profit organizations deemed worthy of such consideration by the City Clerk, for the duration of the pandemic emergency.



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 14, 2020
Title: REQUEST FROM EPILEPSY TORONTO
Submitted by: Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Whereas Epilepsy Toronto has planned a four-day-long fundraising event in Vaughan---Halloween Nights of Lights, which has been approved by appropriate municipal authorities; and

Whereas Epilepsy Toronto believes that an extension of the four-day limit will materially enhance their success in raising funds at a time when its (and other agencies') ability to operate is threatened due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the four-day limit be extended by the Chief Licensing Officer to a maximum of seven days on a case-by-case basis for this and other charities and not-for-profit organizations deemed worthy of such consideration by the City Clerk, for the duration of the pandemic emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor, Ward 2/Woodbridge West

Attachment: Letter of Geoff Bobb, Executive Director, Epilepsy Toronto

A member of the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance



EPILEPSY
Toronto

See the Person

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Charitable Registration
(BN) 10730 6912 RR0001

Councillor Tony Carella
Vaughan City Council
Vaughan City Hall, Level 400
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Councillor Carella,

I'm writing, on behalf of the members and volunteers of Epilepsy Toronto, to express our profound appreciation to the City of Vaughan, for allowing us the opportunity to stage our **Halloween Nights of Lights** fundraising event in your remarkable community. Everyone on your team - health officials, bylaw, police, etc. - have all been so gracious and so helpful to work with; it has been a true pleasure. You should be very proud!

This event has provided us a beacon of hope in extremely dark times. Like many charities, we have had to cancel every one of our fundraising activities this year because of the pandemic, and were facing the prospect of shutting our doors. This, at a time when so many of our members are struggling in desperation to cope with seizures in isolation from loved ones.

Thanks to this event and the Christmas one to follow, we will be able to continue offering critical counseling and support services to thousands, now, when they need us the most.

They say, "when life gives you lemons, ...". These drive-thru events are the perfect tonic for what currently ails us. They provide families an affordable opportunity to get out of the house, and enjoy wholesome entertainment that is 100% COVID safe. It is good for mental health, good for the community, and good for charity. The feedback, thus far, has been overwhelmingly positive. People are loving it! And everything is running smoothly (knock on wood). In fact, there has been such a good response, we find ourselves having to turn people away, which we are truly loath to do. Vaughan bylaws limit the operation of this event to four days per week. There is clearly enough interest in this event to run six, if not seven days per week, including, and perhaps most especially, this coming Thanksgiving Monday. Our sincere hope is that you will consider granting a special exception that would permit us to operate this event beyond the four day limit.

I fully appreciate that this constitutes an exceptional request. But these are exceptional times. None of us could possibly have

Dedicated to the promotion of independence and optimal quality of life for all people with epilepsy and their families through support services, information, advocacy, and public education.



A United Way member agency



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anticipated how the world would change these past few months. The few added days of operation for which we are asking approval would generate invaluable additional revenues for our charity, and be good for families, whose opportunities to get out of the house are far and few in between; good for the businesses of the Improve Centre, who are desperate for exposure; and good for Council, compassionate leaders in dire times. Good all around.

Again, we thank you sincerely for your support. and for your consideration of this request.

Geoff Bobb
Executive Director
Epilepsy Toronto

c. 416 409-8260
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