

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Monday, March 08, 2021

**TITLE: QUINCENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH IN VAUGHAN**

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, 2021 marks a milestone for the Filipino community in Vaughan and beyond, as we mark the 500th Anniversary of the Victory at Mactan and the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, as well as the 123rd Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in 1898, and the proclamation of the month of June as Filipino Heritage Month in Canada by the Parliament of Canada, on October 30, 2018; and

Whereas, The Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines in Toronto, Consul General Orontes V. Castro, requested on January 29, 2021, the 2021 Quincentennial Commemorations in the Philippines (2021 QCP), be proclaimed in the city of Vaughan; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan's formal relationship with the Philippines began more than 20 years ago when an international partnership with Baguio City was established to promote social, cultural and educational exchanges; and

Whereas, Filipino-Canadians have an important presence in the city of Vaughan. Our local Filipino community is passionate and dedicated to cultivating a meaningful connection between our countries; and

Whereas, the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan has been supporting the needs of Filipino-Canadians since 1990 through their diverse programming catered to seniors, youth and newcomers. The Philippine Heritage Band was founded in Thornhill in 1980

and has since grown into one of Canada's premier marching bands, garnering prestigious awards for performances across North America; and

Whereas, since 2004, the City of Vaughan has recognized Filipino Day in Vaughan to celebrate the anniversary of Philippine Independence Day. Throughout the years, the City has marked this occasion with Vaughan's Filipino community by raising the Philippine flag at City Hall to recognize the achievements of Filipino-Canadians and celebrate their contributions to the social and economic fabric of Canada; and

Whereas, Vaughan is blessed and enriched by the diversity of our citizens. Nearly half of our population was born abroad, and our citizens speak 105 different languages. Multiculturalism allows us to further strengthen global connections both culturally and economically.

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City of Vaughan recognize 2021 as the Quincentennial Commemoration of the Philippines;
2. **THAT** the City of Vaughan proclaim every June as Filipino Heritage Month;
3. **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.