

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: CANCER AWARENESS WEEK;
MS AWARENESS DAY; AND DEAFBLIND AWARENESS
MONTH

FROM:

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

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for proclamation requests for: Cancer Awareness Week, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Day and Deafblind Awareness Month.

Report Highlights

- Respond to requests from Vaughan in Motion, York Region Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Community, and the Canadian Helen Keller Centre/National Deafblind Awareness Committee.
- Proclamation requests are for dates between April and June 2021.

Recommendations

1. That April 21 - 27, 2021 be proclaimed as Cancer Awareness Week, and the illumination of City Hall in Yellow and Blue;
2. That May 30, 2021 be proclaimed MS Awareness Day;
3. That June 2021 be proclaimed as Deafblind Awareness Month; and
4. 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 through the various corporate channels.

Background

Cancer Awareness Week

Correspondence was received from Vaughan in Motion for Cancer Care on March 21, 2021 requesting a proclamation and illumination.

Vaughan in Motion is a volunteer-based, not for profit organization that has been active in raising awareness for cancer and fund-raising for the local hospital since 1997.

The proclamation request has been previously approved by Council.

MS Awareness Day

Correspondence was received from the York Region MS Community on March 14, 2021 requesting a proclamation.

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.

Deafblind Awareness Month

Correspondence was received from the Canadian Helen Keller Centre/National Deafblind Awareness Committee on February 18, 2021 requesting a proclamation.

The National Deafblind Awareness working group celebrates the achievements and contributions that individuals who are deafblind make from coast to coast. Their goal is to help members of the community understand the distinct disability of deafblindness in order to help remove the barriers they face.

Previous Reports/Authority

Cancer Awareness Week – [Committee of the Whole - April 2018](#)

MS Awareness Day – [Committee of the Whole - March 2020](#)

Analysis and Options

Cancer Awareness Week

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

“An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.3. Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns;

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns;”

MS Awareness Day

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

“An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.3. Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns;

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns;”

Deafblind Awareness Month

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

“An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.3. Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns;

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns;

Financial Impact

There are no expected financial impacts with respect to these requests.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the requests, staff is recommending that April 21-27, 2021 be proclaimed as Cancer Awareness Week, and that City Hall be illuminated in Yellow and Blue; that May 30, 2021 be proclaimed as MS Awareness Day; that June 2021 be proclaimed as Deafblind Awareness Month, and finally that proclamations be posted on the City's website and that the Corporate and Strategic Communications Department be directed to promote the proclamations through the various corporate channels.

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

Attachments

1. Correspondence from the President and Co-founder, Vaughan in Motion for Cancer Care, received March 21, 2021.
2. Correspondence from York Region MS Community, received March 14, 2021.
3. Correspondence from the Canadian Helen Keller Centre/National Deafblind Awareness Committee, received February 18, 2021.

Prepared by

Shari Gouzvaris, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280

Approved by



Wendy Law
Deputy City Manager
Administrative Services
& City Solicitor

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager