

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUEST: NELSON MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY IN VAUGHAN**

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, in November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared July 18 "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom; and

Whereas, this declaration recognizes Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice, as well as acknowledging his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace around the world; and

Whereas, upon his passing in 2013, the City of Vaughan established a tribute to Nelson Mandela and his life's work, which included lowering City flags and establishing a book of condolences that was located in the atrium of Vaughan City Hall for staff and visitors to leave a message; and

Whereas, the years 2015 to 2024 have been designated by the United Nations as the International Decade for People of African Descent and in 2018, Vaughan Council endorsed this with a City proclamation; and

Whereas, the International Decade for People of African Descent provides a unique opportunity to highlight the important contributions that people of African descent have made to Canadian society, and also provides a platform for engaging in the fight against

anti-Black racism, discrimination and the inequalities that Canadians of African descent continue to face; and

Whereas, each February, the City of Vaughan celebrates Black History Month and honours the men and women who have made lasting contributions to city-building and nation-building; and

Whereas, to support the goal of creating an inclusive community, in March 2019, the City of Vaughan became the first municipality in Canada to endorse the Leadership Accord on Gender Diversity to promote the values of diversity, equality and inclusion; and

Whereas, to further the City of Vaughan's commitment to advancing a culture of co-operation, in January 2020, Council endorsed and adopted the Vaughan Inclusion Charter in support of the Inclusion Charter for York Region, which is a community initiative to create a fair and equal environment for all. To ensure this is achieved, Council appointed a Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force. The City also established the Diversity and Inclusion Officer role in the corporation to provide leadership in fostering diversity, accessibility and inclusion at the City; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is committed to honouring individuals and organizations who have and continue to make meaningful, significant and enduring contributions to our city, our nation and the world.

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City of Vaughan proclaim every July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day;
2. **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.