

CITY OF VAUGHAN
EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2021

Item 28, Report No. 16, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 20, 2021, upon a unanimous recorded vote.

28. CONDEMNING THE RISE OF ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the resolution of Councillor Yeung Racco, dated April 13, 2021:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by: Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

Whereas, since the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets have reported a disturbing rise in racist behaviour toward Asian communities in Canada and around the world. In July 2020, Vaughan Council responded by unanimously endorsing Councillor Yeung Racco's Member's Resolution denouncing the initial rise in anti-Asian racism at the onset of the global pandemic; and

Whereas, new reports have found that nearly 30 per cent of incidents are assaults, representing a 50 per cent increase in assaults early 2020. Disturbingly, women continue to be disproportionately impacted by anti-racism, reporting 60 per cent of all incidents; and

Whereas, verbal harassment – in the form of name-calling, racial slurs, threats and swearing – are the most common type of discrimination, representing 65 per cent of reported incidents; and

Whereas, Vaughan is proudly home to an active, engaged and thriving Asian-Canadian community made up of successful entrepreneurs, committed professionals employed by the City of Vaughan, concerned citizens, dedicated city-builders, compassionate family members, and a growing number of registered seniors and cultural groups, who continue to make positive, significant and lasting contributions to the development of the city; and

Whereas, in February 2020, Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco and Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua joined Catherine Hou, president of the Chinese Cuisine & Hospitality Association of Canada, to visit KUU Sushi, a local restaurant taking part in the Asialicious Asian Restaurant Food Festival, to show support for Asian-Canadian small businesses in Vaughan; and

Whereas, the City's Cultural Heritage Events program is an opportunity to further enrich, engage and educate all people about the contributions made by individuals of Asian heritage; and

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Whereas, each year, Council hosts Lunar New Year festivities that include a traditional lion dance, eye-dotting ceremony and other celebrated cultural performances. In 2021, the first-ever virtual Lunar New Year event took place, inviting people from around the world to watch the celebration online; and

Whereas, the Vaughan Mayor's Lunar Gala, inspired by the Chinese Moon Festival, is a celebration of Asian culture with entertainment, activities and traditional foods, that brings people together to raise funds for important community causes; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan continues to engage in a number of economic and trade missions to Asia to explore and access opportunities that benefit emerging markets within the local business community; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan established a Friendship City partnership with Yangzhou, China in 1995, entered into a Twin City arrangement with Baguio, Philippines in 1997, and is currently discussing an international partnership with Sanjo, Japan, in follow up to an initial Friendship City agreement in 1993. These formal relationships further demonstrate how Vaughan cherishes its relationships with the global Asian community.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan once again unequivocally denounce all forms of racism, bigotry and discrimination – and especially racism targeted at Asian-Canadians; and
2. The City's Economic and Cultural Development department continues its support of Asian-Canadian entrepreneurs and businesses by working in collaboration with organizations such as the Markham, Richmond Hill & Vaughan Chinese Business Association (MRVCBA) and the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE); and
3. The City's Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote the passage of this resolution on the appropriate corporate communications channels, including issuing a news release to local, national and cultural media outlets; and
4. That this resolution and attachments be forwarded to the City's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to be shared with members for further discussion and potential next steps about public education efforts; and
5. That this Member's Resolution be forwarded to York Region, all York Region area municipalities, Vaughan's Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

TITLE: CONDEMNING THE RISE OF ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

FROM:

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

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Whereas, new reports have found that nearly 30 per cent of incidents are assaults, representing a 50 per cent increase in assaults early 2020. Disturbingly, women continue to be disproportionately impacted by anti-racism, reporting 60 per cent of all incidents; and

Whereas, verbal harassment – in the form of name-calling, racial slurs, threats and swearing – are the most common type of discrimination, representing 65 per cent of reported incidents; and

Whereas, Vaughan is proudly home to an active, engaged and thriving Asian-Canadian community made up of successful entrepreneurs, committed professionals employed by the City of Vaughan, concerned citizens, dedicated city-builders, compassionate family members, and a growing number of registered seniors and cultural groups, who continue to make positive, significant and lasting contributions to the development of the city; and

Whereas, in February 2020, Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco and Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua joined Catherine Hou, president of the Chinese Cuisine & Hospitality Association of Canada, to visit KUU Sushi, a local restaurant taking part in the Asialicious

Asian Restaurant Food Festival, to show support for Asian-Canadian small businesses in Vaughan; and

Whereas, the City's Cultural Heritage Events program is an opportunity to further enrich, engage and educate all people about the contributions made by individuals of Asian heritage; and

Whereas, each year, Council hosts Lunar New Year festivities that include a traditional lion dance, eye-dotting ceremony and other celebrated cultural performances. In 2021, the first-ever virtual Lunar New Year event took place, inviting people from around the world to watch the celebration online; and

Whereas, the Vaughan Mayor's Lunar Gala, inspired by the Chinese Moon Festival, is a celebration of Asian culture with entertainment, activities and traditional foods, that brings people together to raise funds for important community causes; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan continues to engage in a number of economic and trade missions to Asia to explore and access opportunities that benefit emerging markets within the local business community; and

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3. The City's Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote the passage of this resolution on the appropriate corporate communications channels, including issuing a news release to local, national and cultural media outlets; and

4. That this resolution and attachments be forwarded to the City's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to be shared with members for further discussion and potential next steps about public education efforts; and
5. That this Member's Resolution be forwarded to York Region, all York Region area municipalities, Vaughan's Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Attachments

1. COVID-19 Anti-Asian Racism in Canada – A National Picture
2. Extract of Member's Resolution from July 15, 2020

COVID-19 ANTI-ASIAN RACISM IN CANADA

A NATIONAL PICTURE



600+ INCIDENTS OF ANTI-ASIAN RACISM REPORTED TO ELIMIN8HATE.ORG & COVIDRACISM.CA, SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19

NEARLY
OF INCIDENTS ARE **30%**



ASSAULT

[Targeted Coughing, Spitting, Physical Violence]

REPRESENTING A **50% INCREASE**
IN ASSAULTS SINCE EARLY 2020

WOMEN

CONTINUE TO BE

**DISPROPORTIONATELY
IMPACTED**

REPORTING
OF ALL INCIDENTS **60%**

VERBAL HARASSMENT

[Name-calling, Racial slurs, Threats, Swearing]

**IS THE MOST COMMON
TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION**

INCLUDED IN
OF ALL REPORTS **65%**

HIGHEST REPORTED INCIDENTS BY:

RACIAL CATEGORY

83%	EAST ASIAN
7%	SOUTHEAST ASIAN
2%	SOUTH ASIAN
1.5%	MIXED RACE/BIRACIAL
1%	INDIGENOUS

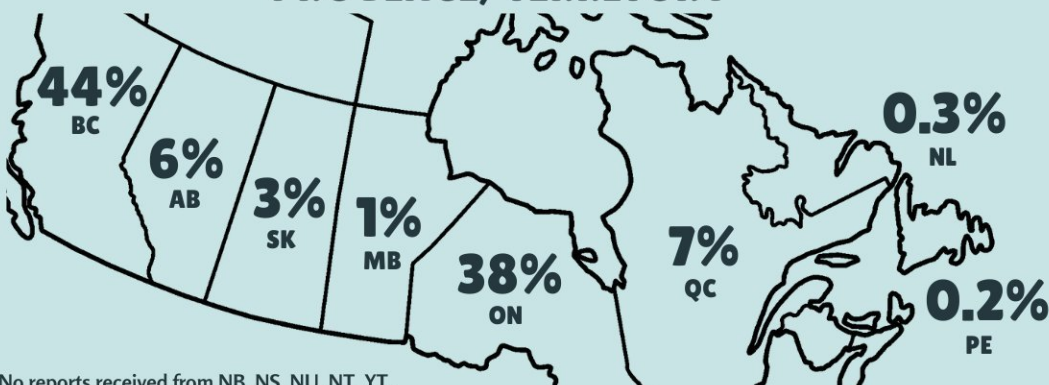
LOCATION

45%	PUBLIC SPACES STREET, SIDEWALK, PARK
14%	GROCERY STORE
8%	PUBLIC TRANSIT
7%	OTHER BUSINESSES NON-GROCERY STORES, OFFICES
5%	PRIVATE RESIDENCES

AGE

45%	19 – 35 YEARS
33%	36 – 54 YEARS
10%	55 YEARS & OVER
8%	18 YEARS & UNDER

PROVINCE/TERRITORY



CITY

28%	VANCOUVER
26%	TORONTO
5%	MONTREAL
3%	CALGARY
3%	OTTAWA

No reports received from NB, NS, NU, NT, YT.
Higher reporting incidence in BC and ON may coincide with the location of the organizations collecting data.

CITY OF VAUGHAN**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020**

Item 6, Report No. 34, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on July 15, 2020.

6. RACISM DIRECTED TOWARDS ASIAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITY

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the following resolution of Councillor Yeung Racco dated July 13, 2020:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Racco

Whereas, since the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets have reported a disturbing rise in racist behaviour toward Asian communities; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan unequivocally denounces all forms of racism, bigotry and discrimination; and

Whereas, Vaughan is home to an active, engaged and thriving Asian-Canadian community made up of successful professionals, concerned citizens, dedicated city-builders and compassionate family members; and

Whereas, the City's Cultural Heritage Events program is an opportunity to further enrich, engage and educate all people about the contributions made by individuals of Asian heritage; and

Whereas, each year, Council hosts Lunar New Year festivities that include a traditional lion dance, eye-dotting ceremony and other celebrated cultural performances; and

Whereas, the Vaughan Mayor's Lunar Gala, inspired by the Chinese Moon Festival, is a celebration of Asian culture with entertainment, activities and traditional foods, that bring people together to raise funds for community causes, including the new Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital; and

Whereas, in 1995, the City established a Friendship City partnership with Yangzhou, China, and in 1997, entered into a Twin City arrangement with Baguio, Philippines; and

Whereas, in March of 2019, the City was formally invited to take part in the annual Smart City Summit and Expo in Taipei, Taiwan. This international conference brings together thought leaders from local governments, along with recognized professionals from public-and private-sector organizations. Vaughan's participation in the global conference presented opportunities to share existing best practices, learn about emerging and innovative trends in city-building and actively engage economic development leads; and

Whereas, to further the City's commitment to advancing a culture of co-operation and inclusion, earlier this year, Mayor Bevilacqua formally signed the Vaughan

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EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020

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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; and

Whereas, to help advance a mandate of diversity and inclusion, Council unanimously voted to create a Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force and endorsed Mayor Bevilacqua's Member's Resolution to establish a new employment opportunity in the form of a full-time permanent employment (FTE) opportunity – Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

It is therefore recommended:

- 1) That City Council unanimously and vigorously denounce acts of hatred, discrimination, and violence directed against people of various Asian origins; and
- 2) That, once meetings formally begin, this Member's Resolution is forwarded to members of the City's new Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force to inform their work; and
- 3) That this Member's Resolution be forwarded to York Region, all York Region area municipalities, Vaughan's Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (1) – JULY 13, 2020
Title:	RACISM DIRECTED TOWARDS ASIAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITY
Submitted by:	Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

Whereas, since the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets have reported a disturbing rise in racist behaviour toward Asian communities; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan unequivocally denounces all forms of racism, bigotry and discrimination; and

Whereas, Vaughan is home to an active, engaged and thriving Asian-Canadian community made up of successful professionals, concerned citizens, dedicated city-builders and compassionate family members; and

Whereas, the City's Cultural Heritage Events program is an opportunity to further enrich, engage and educate all people about the contributions made by individuals of Asian heritage; and

Whereas, each year, Council hosts Lunar New Year festivities that include a traditional lion dance, eye-dotting ceremony and other celebrated cultural performances; and

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Whereas, in March of 2019, the City was formally invited to take part in the annual Smart City Summit and Expo in Taipei, Taiwan. This international conference brings together thought leaders from local governments, along with recognized professionals from public-and private-sector organizations. Vaughan's participation in the global conference presented opportunities to share existing best practices, learn about emerging and innovative trends in city-building and actively engage economic development leads; and

Whereas, to further the City's commitment to advancing a culture of co-operation and inclusion, earlier this year, Mayor Bevilacqua formally signed 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; and

Whereas, to help advance a mandate of diversity and inclusion, Council unanimously voted to create a Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force and endorsed Mayor Bevilacqua's Member's Resolution to establish a new employment opportunity in the form of a full-time permanent employment (FTE) opportunity – Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

It is therefore recommended:

- 1) That City Council unanimously and vigorously denounce acts of hatred, discrimination, and violence directed against people of various Asian origins; and
- 2) That, once meetings formally begin, this Member's Resolution is forwarded to members of the City's new Diversity and Citizen Engagement Task Force to inform their work; and
- 3) That this Member's Resolution be forwarded to York Region, all York Region area municipalities, Vaughan's Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco,
Ward 4 Councillor