

## 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

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020

#### Item 6, CW Report 34 – Page 2

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**

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

**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 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