

Item:



## Finance, Administration and Audit Committee Report

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**DATE:** Wednesday, June 06, 2018

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** Review of City of Vaughan Response to April 14-15, 2018 Ice Storm

**FROM:**

Stephen Collins, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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### **Purpose**

To provide Council a review of the City's response to the ice storm event that took place April 14-15, 2018, and to identify opportunities to improve our extreme weather response protocols, for consideration in the 2019 budget process.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Council receive this report for information.

### **Report Highlights**

- Council passed a resolution at their May 23, 2018, meeting directing staff to provide a review of the City's response to the ice storm event that took place April 14-15, 2018.
- The ice storm review will be provided via a Communication referencing this report.

### **Background**

The City of Vaughan and other GTA municipalities received an ice storm on the weekend of April 14-15, 2018, beyond the City's customary winter season. Based on the weather forecast, staff responded with multiple applications of salt and the implementation of the Heavy Rain Event Protocol. With significant rain and warming

temperatures in the forecast, the City chose not to plow, in order to avoid flooding, which could result from blocked catch basins. Throughout the storm, communications efforts were undertaken to inform the public about the City's ongoing response efforts.

The actual conditions during April 14 and 15 were different from the forecast, and as the storm subsided on April 16 there was a significant buildup of ice and snow on City roads and sidewalks making driving and walking conditions challenging. Staff continued to assess the conditions and monitor road and sidewalk conditions during and following the ice storm and made the decision to begin plowing on April 17.

A review of the City's planning, decision-making, execution and communications processes in response to this ice storm will be provided in a Communication referencing this report.

### **Previous Reports/Authority**

Council, at their meeting on May 23, 2018, adopted a Member's Resolution directing staff provide Council with a review of the City's response to the ice storm event that took place April 14-15, 2018.

### **Analysis and Options**

Options to improve the City's mitigation of severe weather events will be discussed in a Communication referencing the current report.

### **Financial Impact**

This report does not have direct financial impacts, nor will the upcoming Communication. The Communication will identify opportunities to improve the City's response to future extreme weather events. Those improvement opportunities will be further developed as part of the 2019 budget process and presented to Council for their consideration.

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Regional impacts and considerations will be discussed in the upcoming Communication.

### **Conclusion**

Conclusions will be provided in the upcoming Communication.

**For more information on winter salting and plowing operations**, please contact:  
Zoran Postic, Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, ext. 6137

**For more information on the Heavy Rain Event Protocol**, please contact: Jennifer Rose, Director of Environmental Services, ext. 6116

**For more information on the corporate communications protocols**, please contact: Michael Genova, Director of Corporate and Strategic Communications, ext. 8027

### **Attachments**

N/A

### **Prepared by**

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