

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

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