

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 08, 2021

**TITLE: CITY OF VAUGHAN SUPPORTS YORK UNIVERSITY'S PLAN TO
ESTABLISH A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, on May 20, 2021, York University publicly announced their intention to pursue a School of Medicine in the city of Vaughan that will focus on training family and community doctors in an integrated setting; and

Whereas, York University's strength and breadth of academic programs and research make it well-positioned to establish a School of Medicine. With a unique curriculum addressing the social and environmental factors affecting health in under-resourced and underserved communities, the new medical school will meet the growing demand in Ontario; and

Whereas, York University's Faculty of Health includes one of Canada's largest Nursing and Nurse Practitioner programs, as well as outstanding bachelor and graduate degrees in psychology, kinesiology and health sciences, health studies, health policy and management, health informatics, critical disability studies, global health and neuroscience; and

Whereas, York University is home to centres of research excellence in global health, healthy ageing, muscle health, vision neuroscience, anti-microbial resistance, disease modelling, data visualization, and advanced robotics, among others and these strengths in basic and applied health research are fuelling successful innovation and commercialization partnerships; and

Whereas, at the February 2020 Vaughan Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Luncheon in the presence of York University's President Rhonda Lenton and other York University officials, I made a public commitment to support York University's efforts to establish a medical school in Vaughan; and

Whereas, the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic is felt in communities around the world, and the City of Vaughan remains focused on providing and supporting opportunities for learning and innovation in the field of medical sciences. Now more than ever, providing accessible, front-line care is required to ensure our communities' health, well-being and greater health equity for all; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has identified a critical need to expand health-related services, particularly in response to COVID-19; and

Whereas, in January 2021, the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, Canada's first smart hospital, opened initially with an exclusive focus on supporting the current surge in critical and acute care volumes in the healthcare system. In addition to being the first hospital in Vaughan, the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital is the first net new hospital to be built in Ontario in more than 30 years; and

Whereas, hospitals and post-secondary institutions are magnets for innovation, education and investment that can lead to the transformation of a community. Providing accessible, world-class care for all citizens is among our top priorities; and

Whereas, In October 2019, the City of Vaughan signed a memorandum of understanding with York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB to identify transformational opportunities to maximize the best use of lands surrounding the site of what would become the future Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital through a feasibility study; and

Whereas, in 2019, the City of Vaughan led a trade mission to Israel with a delegation that included representatives from York University. We met with Dr. Rafael Beyar, an experienced, accomplished and trusted leader at the world-class Rambam Medical Center – one of the largest medical centres in Israel. Dr. Beyar discussed his country's extensive efforts to bring together startups and academic institutions to create medical breakthroughs and enhance front-line health services. This was followed by a study tour of the Rambam Medical Center and The Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital to learn cutting-edge technologies and proven best practices that improve patient care; and

Whereas, Vaughan is a vibrant and diverse city with an appreciation for the many cultures, creeds and faiths that thrive here. Diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Our residents speak more than 105 languages and nearly half the population was born abroad. The City continues to foster a community that is inclusive and respectful and

where all citizens, businesses, employees and visitors are valued. In January 2020, we signed the Vaughan Inclusion Charter in support of the Inclusion Charter for York Region. The Charter promotes and celebrates human rights and accessibility. It also further strengthens a sense of belonging for all members of the community to ensure they have equal access to opportunities and can enjoy an exceptional quality of life and standard of living; and

Whereas, the City of Vaughan has a growing health and healthcare sector anchored by a resident base that is talented and diverse. Vaughan is recognized as a transformative and dynamic economic centre with unprecedented growth in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and the first municipality outside of Toronto with direct subway connection; and

Whereas, through the continued partnership between the City of Vaughan and York University, we remain focused on enhancing healthcare services, research and innovation to support the healthcare needs of citizens in Vaughan and beyond;

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan support and endorse York University's proposal to establish a School of Medicine in Vaughan; and
2. That 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
3. That this resolution be shared with the Prime Minister, Premier, local MPs, MPPs and Members of York Region Council.