

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, October 05, 2021

TITLE: Treat Accessibly

FROM:

Regional Councillor Linda Jackson

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is committed to fostering an inclusive community where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can thrive; and

Whereas, to recognize the City's efforts to fulfil this goal, the Rick Hansen Foundation awarded multiple City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries facilities with Gold Certification for accessibility – the highest achievement the foundation can bestow; and

Whereas, the mandate of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to help guide the City in removing and preventing barriers in policies, practices, programs, and services to meet the requirements of the Accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. This includes reviewing Vaughan's Accessibility Plan and other accessibility reports, identifying accessibility opportunities and challenges within the community and advising Council on requirements to implement accessibility standards across Vaughan; and

Whereas, during a Sept. 28, 2021, meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Local and Regional Councillor Linda Jackson introduced the Treat Accessibly – a grassroots movement started in 2017 by the Padulo family at their home with the goal of making trick-or-treating at Halloween accessible and inclusive for families; and

Whereas, by some estimates, 400,000 children in Canada, and 4 million in the United States identify with having a disability that may prevent these children from trick-or-treating with their siblings and other kids because something as simple as stairs; and

Whereas, the Treat Accessibly initiative recommends several ways households in Vaughan, and in communities throughout North America, can distribute items in a safe and accessible way. For more information, the public can visit treataccessibly.com; and

Whereas, mindful of annual Halloween festivities, the public should continue to follow health and safety protocols in place because of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and consider how these protocols may impact those participating in Halloween festivities.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT the City's Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote awareness of the Treat Accessibly initiative, on an annual basis, on the appropriate corporate communications channels, while also communicating health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19; and
2. THAT this resolution is shared with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee; Ontario's Minister for Seniors and Accessibility; York Region Council; York Region lower-tier municipalities; and all York Region-area Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.