EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2015

Item 1, Report No. 17, of the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 15, 2015.

1   **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT –
AUDIT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY CONTROLS**

The Finance, Administration and Audit Committee recommends:

1)   **That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Director of Internal Audit, dated December 8, 2015, be approved;**

2)   **That the presentation by the Director of Internal Audit and C2, presentation material titled "*Audit of Information Technology Security Controls*" dated December 8, 2015, be received; and**

3)   **That the deputation by Mr. Richard Lorello, Treelawn Boulevard, Kleinburg, be received.**

Recommendation

The Director of Internal Audit recommends:

1.   That the Internal Audit Report on the Audit of Information Technology Security Controls be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

Internal Audit activities and reports contribute to the sustainability of the City by providing advice and assurance that controls supporting the effective delivery of services and programs are effective. Longer term sustainability needs the support of good, efficient risk mitigation strategies. Internal Audit can provide support for that sustainability by providing independent advice and assurance.

Economic Impact

There are no direct economic impacts associated with this report.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

To present to the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee the Internal Audit Report on the Audit of Information Technology Security Controls.

Background - Analysis and Options

Securing computerized data and information is important for a number of reasons, but principally as a means of keeping information safe. The importance of computer security lies in how harmful it can be if data or information is lost.

The City stores a lot of data, some of it very sensitive, including payment information, staff records, e-mails, citizen information and extensive corporate documents, both finished and those in progress.

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In addition to security breaches by outsiders, there is also an increasing risk that data and systems can be compromised by staff inside organizations. As part of their daily responsibilities, staff have access to data and information that those outside of the organization typically do not. Although not a risk unique to computerized information, the ease of availability and accessibility to computerized information significantly increases the likelihood of a security breach.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the Term of Council Priority: Continue to Advance a Culture of Excellence in Governance, and the Service Excellence Initiative: Improvement Through Technology.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Computerized data security is in an evolutionary phase at the City of Vaughan. A recent third party review of the City's critical security controls indicated that the City compares favorably to other municipalities that had a similar review done. However, the review did identify improvements that would further strengthen controls. Improving security is an ongoing activity that needs to be well planned based on risk and cost. The Information and Technology Management Department (ITM) is currently engaged in this process.

The City has good processes to help detect and prevent malicious attacks, has secure configuration standards for new computers and has good reliable backup data.

Of the recommended improvements, there are some that would reduce risk without major financial, procedural or technical changes to the computing environment. These improvements or "quick wins" include better device and software management that would help lower the risk of unauthorized or unmanaged hardware and software being present on the network and using a vulnerability scanning tool or service to monitor potential attacks on the system network.

Although having foolproof security in place is not a realistic goal, it would be prudent for the City to maximize the "quick wins" to improve security while keeping costs and disruption low. ITM has recognized this and is risk assessing its priorities to maximize security improvements.

Attachment

1. Internal Audit Report – Audit of Information Technology Security Controls

Report prepared by:

Paul Wallis CPA, CMA CIA CISA CRMA
Director, Internal Audit

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)