

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2017**

Item 7, Report No. 17, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 16, 2017.

#### **7      SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – 2017 ANNIVERSARY          CELEBRATIONS**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Chief Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations, dated May 2, 2017:

##### **Recommendation**

The Chief Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations recommends:

1. That this report be received for information purposes.

##### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan: Objective 4.1: To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage

##### **Economic Impact**

International Partnership programs and initiatives identified in this report will be funded through the approved 2017 Economic Development and Culture Services operating budget. The costs will be approximately \$14,500 (\$7,250 per celebration). Costs associated with each celebration include: Transportation, Passes for McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Refreshments, Audio/Video, Incidentals, Day One Lunch, Translation Services and Workshop.

##### **Communications Plan**

Celebrations associated with anniversary events will be advertised on the City's website and through social media.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the planned activities to celebrate the 2017 Anniversary Celebrations with two of Vaughan's Official existing social and cultural partnerships: Sora, Italy (25 years) and Baguio, Philippines (20 years).

##### **Background - Analysis and Options**

A letter of request was received from Sora, Italy and the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan (Attachment 1 & 2) indicating that a delegation from each City will be travelling to Vaughan in 2017 to commemorate the respective anniversary of our social and cultural relationship.

##### **What is a Friendship/Twin/Sister City?**

Sister Cities International, the nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships around the world defines a sister city in this way, "When a community of any size or character joins with a community in another nation to learn more about the other and to develop friendly and meaningful exchanges, the two may propose a formal affiliation leading to official

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designation as “sister cities.” The ideal affiliation involves a large number of citizens and organizations in both communities engaged in continuing projects of mutual interest. This interchange helps to further international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. Within the program, cities and their citizens exchange people, ideas and culture in a variety of educational, municipal, professional, technical and youth projects.”

The term Sister City has generally been interchanged with the terms Friendship City and Twin City in North America. However, cities around the world do view these terms as independent of each other. Friendship City being the most casual and least developed relationship, Twin City signifies a relationship with some formality and organized actions while Sister City represents, as noted, a formal recognition with defined actions, objectives and goals.

#### **Vaughan’s Existing Cultural and Social International Partnerships**

The International Partnership Policy of the City of Vaughan has been in place since 2011 and it indicates two forms of International Partnerships: Friendship Agreements and Twin City Agreements. These partnerships were characterized by the type of collaboration that they proposed to cultivate: cultural and/or educational relations or economic (opportunity) development. The underlying premise of the policy was that the relationship was being initiated by the City.

Since 1992, the City of Vaughan has formally signed a number of “Friendship and Twin” agreements with the following communities:

- **Sora, Italy (1992)**
- Ramla, Israel (1993)
- Sanjo, Japan (1993)
- Yangzhou, China (1995)
- **Baguio, Philippines (1997)**
- Delia, Italy (1998)
- Lanciano, Italy (2002)

In the case of Vaughan’s “twin” and “friendship” cities that are social and cultural partnerships, there is usually strong community group support that maintains continuity of contact independent of the City. In the past, the activities of community groups have included reciprocal social/cultural visits (educational and personal exchanges); cultural celebrations; etc. In addition, the majority of activities have been directed towards Vaughan; that is, more often it entails delegations coming to Vaughan than vice versa.

#### **2017 Anniversary Celebrations**

This year marks milestone anniversary celebrations for two existing social and cultural partnerships:

1. Sora, Italy (25 years)
2. Baguio, Philippines (20 years)

#### **Facts: Sora, Italy**

- Population as of 2015 is 26,144
- Land Area 71 km<sup>2</sup>
- Mayor Roberto De Donatis
- Sora is a town of Lazio, in the province of Frosinone

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#### **Facts: Baguio, Philippines**

- Population as of 2015 is 345,366
- Land Area 57.5 km<sup>2</sup>
- Mayor Mauricio Domogan
- Baguio is located in Benguet, Philippines

The Office of the Mayor recently received letters of request (Attachment 1 & 2) from Sora, Italy and the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan requesting festivity activities to celebrate the anniversary of our social and cultural partnership.

In preparation for these upcoming events, the following draft itinerary is proposed for two days that the delegation will be with Vaughan Staff.

- Workshop – Existing Social and International Partnerships
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection – Tour
- Vaughan Metropolitan Centre – Tour
- Official Anniversary Celebration at Vaughan City Hall – Refreshments to be served and Certificate of Milestone Acknowledgement to be presented
- Coordinate Meetings – ie. School Boards for Student Exchanges, Areas of Interest

In addition, Staff will request that Artifacts of/from the partnership city be displayed in one of the display case at City Hall for a period of 30 days. This will bring awareness of the visiting City.

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

This report is consistent with the Term of Council priority to support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community.

#### **Regional Implications**

Not Applicable

#### **Conclusion**

By commemorating these 2017 Anniversary Celebrations with Sora and Baguio, the City of Vaughan is recognizing the unique relationship that was created through social and international partnerships. A detailed Agenda will be distributed in advance.

#### **Attachments**

1. Letter dated March 28, 2017 from Mayor Roberto De Donatis, Commune Di Sora, Italy
2. Letter dated March 8, 2017 from Erlinda Insigne, President, Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan

#### **Report prepared by:**

Tim Simmonds  
Chief Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations

(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.)