

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2016

Item 18, Report No. 18, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 19, 2016.

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CIVIL MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZATION SERVICES

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated April 5, 2016:

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That the authority provided to the City Clerk and designates to solemnize marriages be amended to permit the solemnization of marriages both within and outside the City of Vaughan;
2. That a premium of \$100 for 2016 (plus mileage, if applicable) be imposed for wedding services conducted outside Vaughan City Hall; and
3. That any necessary by-laws be introduced.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

Revenue will be dependent on the number of requests for the service received, but is not expected to be substantial in the short term.

Communications Plan

This additional service will be promoted on the City's website and to clients at the time that marriage license applications are processed at the City Clerk's Office.

Purpose

By its adoption of Item 15 of Report No. 1 of the Committee of the Whole, on January 29, 2013 Council authorized the City Clerk and his designates to solemnize marriages at Vaughan City Hall and at other locations within the City of Vaughan. Council also authorized the issuance of an RFP for contracted marriage services so that the service could be provided evening and weekends. This report advises on the results of the RFP process and also recommends a minor extension to the City Clerk's authority so that marriage solemnization can occur outside the City from time to time.

Background - Analysis and Options

Civil marriages have been performed at City Hall since 2014. To date approximately 250 ceremonies have been conducted, primarily at City Hall, though staff has periodically received requests to perform ceremonies outside of the City. Though Clerks in Ontario have the statutory authority to perform marriages throughout the province, in its initial phase the program authorized by Council was limited to the City's borders. Staff have been able to accommodate the occasional external request based on officiant availability and courtesy permission being obtained from the Clerk of the jurisdiction where the ceremony was to be performed.

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To expand the program hours as well as market the service beyond City Hall staff issued an RFP on to obtain the services of a contracted wedding officiant. No submissions were received in response to the RFP and a further RFP will be issued once it is determined that sufficient interest exists in the marketplace to warrant another competitive bid process.

To address the demand for wedding ceremonies the City Clerk has expanded the City's internal roster of officiants. The amended authority sought through the adoption of the recommendations in this report will facilitate the accommodation of requests for wedding solemnization outside of the City of Vaughan where circumstances permit.

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

This report is consistent with the Term of Council priority of Operational Performance - Service Delivery Options by offering residents solemnization services at locations outside of the City of Vaughan.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that Council amend its original direction regarding the solemnization of marriages to allow the City Clerk and his designates to perform marriages outside the City of Vaughan. The expansion of the City's marriage solemnization program will provide a higher level of service and provide an additional moderate source of revenue.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

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