

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2014

Item 5, Report No. 18, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 6, 2014.

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#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK PROCLAMATION

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Manager of Emergency Planning and Fire Chief/Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), dated April 29, 2014:

##### Recommendation

The Manager of Emergency Planning and Fire Chief/Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) recommend:

1. The week of May 4 – 10, 2014, be proclaimed as “**Emergency Preparedness Week**”; and
2. The proclamation be posted on the City's website, City Page space permitting.

##### Contribution to Sustainability

Emergencies can have significant and long term impacts on all aspects of sustainability of the City. By our citizens and staff taking action to prepare for emergencies, we build resiliency as a community. Being prepared and resilient aids the City in rapidly returning to high level of functionality.

##### Economic Impact

N/A

##### Communications Plan

In consultation and coordination with Corporate Communications, the proclamation, emergency preparedness tips and information will be issued through the City's Website, Twitter pages, Face Book pages and media releases.

##### Purpose

To promote that all citizens and staff take action to be prepared for an emergency, tune in for information and know the risks that can create emergencies in our community.

##### Background - Analysis and Options

The concept of Emergency Preparedness Week was adopted by all levels of government in Canada in 1995. This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emergency Preparedness Week.

The purpose of Emergency Preparedness Week is to promote public awareness to be prepared for and survive emergencies. The key message is “72 hours – is your family prepared”. It is everyone's responsibility to take action by putting together a 72 hour emergency kit, learning about the City's Response Plan, planning an escape route, identifying a meeting place, having a personal emergency plan, tuning in for emergency information and learning what types of emergencies can happen and how to react.

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Research on emergency preparedness has identified that citizens who are prepared for emergencies recover more quickly than those who are not prepared. A survey by Public Safety Canada found that less than 40% of Canadians had a 72 hour emergency kit.

The 2013 Ice Storm and 2009 Tornadoes remind all of us that emergencies do happen in Vaughan. Emergencies have many impacts on the City and its citizens such as risks to personal safety, injuries, power outages, restricted travel, property damage, social and economic losses and damage to infrastructure. Emergencies not only affect our citizens, but also the City personnel tasked with responding to and managing the situation.

City staff train in and practice emergency management procedures to ensure that we can effectively and efficiently handle any situation by putting public safety first. Citizens play an important role in the efforts of putting public safety first by taking the necessary actions to prepare themselves and their families.

In rare events such as severe winter storms, advanced warning can be provided by Environment Canada, but for most natural, technological and human-caused disasters there is no warning. By taking action now to be prepared, citizens can react quickly when a disaster or emergency happens to ensure their safety.

The program will be promoting personal preparedness through media stories, blogs, posting tips on Twitter and Face Book and through an appearance on Daytime York Region during Emergency Preparedness Week. In partnership with Human Resources and PowerStream, an appreciation breakfast will be held on May 6, 2014 for members of the Joint Health and Safety Committees and Emergency Management Team members in recognition of their efforts to keep the City safe.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision specifically the strategic goal of service excellence; promote community safety, health and wellness.

#### **Regional Implications**

York Region Emergency Management will be holding their annual Emergency Preparedness Fair on May 3, 2014 to recognize Emergency Preparedness Week. Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service will be sending the Command Post to the Fair.

#### **Conclusion**

The Manager of Emergency Planning and Fire Chief/CEMC are recommending that the week of May 4, 2014, be proclaimed as “**Emergency Preparedness Week**” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website, City Page space permitting. Emergencies can occur at any time, and being prepared is everyone’s responsibility. Working together, Vaughan can be a disaster-resilient community.

#### **Attachments**

None

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

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