

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

Item 14, Report No. 47, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 19, 2013.

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**RETAIL BUSINESS HOLIDAY ACT EXEMPTION**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Shefman, dated November 5, 2013:

**Member's Resolution**

Submitted by Councillor Alan Shefman

**Whereas**, The Retail Business Holidays Act prohibits certain businesses from opening on statutory holidays, and

**Whereas**, Regional Council has the authority to grant exemptions from the Act for businesses in order to promote tourism, and

**Whereas**, an exemption from the Act allows a business the choice to be open on any of the nine statutory holidays as outlined in the business's application, and

**Whereas**, there is a significant population of residents of Orthodox Jewish faith in Thornhill who are patrons of businesses that provide kosher food and other required items, and

**Whereas**, members of the Jewish faith from areas such as Upper New York State and other cities in Ontario travel to this area because of the unique availability of kosher food, and

**Whereas**, Jewish residents in the community have requested that local businesses that address their particular needs be exempt from being closed on statutory holidays such as Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as these holidays often coincide with Passover, and

**Whereas**, local retail business establishments would like to have the act amended to reflect the need for their business to operate on these holidays to serve their customers, and

**Whereas**, the most impacted retail businesses are located within the following boundaries: Steeles Avenue to the south, Yonge Street to the east, Highway 7 to the north and Dufferin Street to the west, and

**Whereas**, this would include all retail businesses that choose to apply to York Region and submit the required fees for the exemption.

**Whereas**, York Region Council has a specific process that takes place twice a year to consider this type of application. There is some urgency in moving this forward at this time.

**It is therefore recommended** that the City of Vaughan inform York Region of our support for these exemptions in the identified area, urging Regional Council to approve the applications as soon as possible.