

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012

Item 34, Report No. 48, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 11, 2012.

34

CONTRABAND TOBACCO AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Regional Councillor Di Biase, dated November 27, 2012:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase

Whereas contraband tobacco has negative public consequences and impacts such as unrestricted youth access to tobacco products, and an increase in criminal activity, and

Whereas contraband tobacco products are easily accessible in our community, and

Whereas small businesses are sometimes forced to close because of the sale of contraband tobacco, and

Whereas small business in our community and government in general stand to benefit from the institution of tougher restrictions on contraband tobacco;

It is therefore recommended that the City of Vaughan write a letter to the Ontario Minister of Finance in support of the Ontario Government's most recent Budget commitments to eradicate contraband tobacco through the implementation of additional regulatory, enforcement and other provisions in Bill 186 and amendments to the Tobacco Tax Act. Particularly, in support of measures such as:

1. increased fines for those convicted of offenses related to contraband tobacco;
2. more authority for law enforcement officials with respect to: forfeiture of items seized, and impounding of vehicles.
3. drawing on the best practices of other jurisdictions and working collaboratively with the federal government and other jurisdictions to enhance contraband tobacco control through joint enforcement efforts, and

That the provincial government is encouraged to continue to strengthen their strategies to address the manufacture and supply of contraband tobacco and maintain their commitment to introduce amendments this fall to implement these measures, and

That surrounding municipalities be made aware of the actions taken by this Council to address the concerns presented by contraband tobacco.

Attachments

None.