

C	<u>9</u>
Item #	<u>54</u>
Report No.	<u>33</u>
<u>Council - Sept 25/12.</u>	

DATE: September 25, 2012

TO: Mayor Bevilacqua and Members of Council

FROM: Marlon Kallideen, Commissioner of Community Services

COPY: Clayton Harris, City Manager
Mary Reali, Director of Recreation and Culture

RE: Communication C4
Committee of the Whole Meeting – September 4, 2012
Proposal for “Festival of Light” Event at Vaughan City Hall:
November 30, 2012 to January 7, 2013
Item 54, Report 33

Mr. Michael Tibollo, President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians - Toronto District (NCIC) made a deputation at the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 4, 2012 and requested that Council consider hosting the proposed “Festival of Light” event from November 30, 2012 to January 7, 2013 at City Hall.

At this meeting, Council received the correspondence and deputation from Mr. Tibollo and referred the item to staff for a report.

Staff met with Mr. Tibollo and although some details of the festival are still being finalized, the following are some particulars that were discussed:

- The Festival of Light event is aimed at showcasing the significance of the theme of “light” in various cultures, traditions, and religions. The goal of this celebration is to foster a greater understanding of various cultures and to celebrate shared themes.
- The community partners to date, that have confirmed their participation include members of the First Nations, Muslim, Sikh, Catholic, African-Caribbean and Jewish communities, along with support from York Region Police.
- The event will include displays and exhibits in the atrium area of City Hall that represent how various cultures celebrate the theme of “light” during the months of December and early January. This may include displays of menorahs, nativity scenes, and other displays related to the theme of the event.

- Two evening events are proposed which would include the use of the City Hall multi-purpose room, and atrium area. These events are as follows: first week in December for a media launch event; second event is for December 20 (tentative) for an evening of speakers and cultural food sampling expected to draw 200-300 people. This second event may require staging, microphones, AV technical support, chairs/tables, and security that will have to be facilitated by the NCIC.
- Tours and school visits for the exhibits/displays will be scheduled and facilitated by the volunteers of the NCIC throughout the event's duration.
- The NCIC will create brochures and other marketing material for the promotion of the event at their own expense. City staff will assist in the distribution of this material to our City facilities.
- The NCIC will be required to provide their own display units for their artifacts or provide alternative solutions, in coordination with staff, to ensure the safety of their items.

Eligible City Support through CSO and Fairs and Festival Programs

The National Congress is currently finalizing their Community Services Organization (CSO) application. Upon approval, the group would be eligible for their rental at the lowest subsidized rate. Currently, the hourly rental rates for CSO's are \$211.63 for the atrium and \$86.12 per hour for the multipurpose room plus \$50 per hour overtime costs. As an example, if the rental for two evenings resulted in an eight hour booking, the rental cost would be \$2,382 plus \$400 overtime, plus 13% HST for a total cost of \$3,143.66. In addition, the National Congress, as a CSO group could apply for the Fairs & Festivals Support Program which could result in a further discount of 50%, specific only to the rental rate, which is a further cost savings of \$1,191. This results in a final potential rental cost of \$1,797.83.

Please note these charges are estimated costs only and based on the information known to staff at this time. They do not reflect the costs of additional services in kind such as security, tables, chairs, and garbage bins.

Note: In addition to working with the group to finalize their CSO application and facility requirements, Staff will also assist the organizers in facilitating the installation of displays and exhibits, booking spaces and assisting in other requirements of the organizer such as the promotion of the event in the community through various communication and distribution channels available to City staff.

Concurrent City Events and Resources

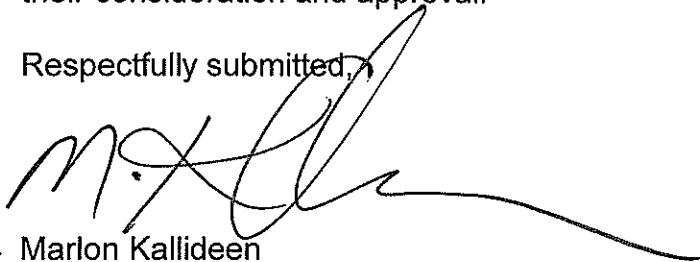
Scheduled City events concurrently happening at City Hall in December that may impact the use of space are as follows:

- City of Vaughan CP24 Toy drive (November - December 2012 - collection of toys in atrium)
- Christmas Tree Lighting (outdoor courtyard and indoor multi-purpose room & atrium) – December 6, 2012
- Menorah Lighting (multi-purpose room) – December 12, 2012
- Staff Holiday Luncheon – December 14, 2012 (multi-purpose room)
- Festive Closure – December 24, 2012 – January 1, 2013

The impact of these events, including the administrative “closure” of City Hall and ensuring public flow/access through the first floor atrium area, will have to be addressed by staff in coordinating with the National Congress on the requirements of their event. Other issues include the installation of exhibits and displays, security of and insurance of artifacts by NCIC.

Should Council endorse the use of City Hall for this event, a team of staff will meet with the National Congress organizers to ensure public safety, City requirements and security is maintained at City Hall. Any additional charges or services scoped out during these meetings as the event develops will be provided to the NCIC for their consideration and approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kallideen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services