

DATE: October 22, 2013
TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Marlon Kallideen, Commissioner of Community Services
COPY: Barbara Cribbett, Interim City Manager
Jeffrey Abrams, City Clerk
RE: **COMMUNICATION – COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 2013**

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Item #	28
Report No.	42 (CW)
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ITEM # 28 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OCTOBER 15, 2013
"FESTIVAL OF LIGHT" EVENT AT VAUGHAN CITY HALL: DECEMBER 2013

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 October 15, 2013 and requested Council's approval to host the second "Festival of Light" event at City Hall for the month of December 2013.

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

The following are some details related to the event:

- 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 "Festival of Light" is coordinated by the NCIC, a registered Vaughan Community Service Organization (CSO).
- The community partners to date, that have confirmed their participation include members of the First Nations, Buddhist, 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. This may include displays of menorahs, nativity scenes, and other displays related to the theme of the event.
- One evening event on December 12, 2013 is proposed which would include the use of the City Hall multi-purpose room, and atrium area for an evening of speakers and cultural food sampling expected to draw over 400 people. This event will 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 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.

- Staff is able to assist NCIC in facilitating the installation of displays and exhibits, booking spaces and assisting in other requirements such as the promotion of the event in the community through various free communication and distribution channels available to the City.

Concurrent City Events and Resources

There are concurrent scheduled City events in December that may impact the use of space which includes the City of Vaughan CP24 Toy drive, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the Menorah Lighting, and the administration's Festive Closure.

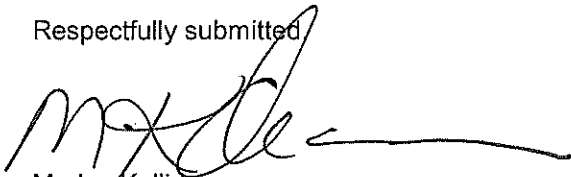
The impact of these events and ensuring public flow/access through the first floor atrium area will have to be addressed by staff with the NCIC in coordinating the requirements of their event. Other issues include the installation of exhibits and displays, security of and insurance of artifacts by NCIC.

In light of the fact that the first annual "Festival of Light" event, hosted by the NCIC, was held at Vaughan City Hall in December of 2012 without incident and that the appropriate rental rates and policies were applied, it is recommended that Council endorse the second annual "Festival of Light" to be held at Vaughan City Hall in December of 2013.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council endorse the use of City Hall (atrium for the month of December/multi-purpose room for one evening) by NCIC for the 2013 "Festival of Light" event with all applicable fees; and,
2. That staff meet with the NCIC to outline CSO rental rates and policies associated with the event and ensure public safety, City requirements and security is maintained at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted



Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services