

COUNCIL – MARCH 19, 2013

PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That April 2, 2013 be proclaimed as "World Autism Awareness Day" in the City of Vaughan;
- 2) That the Autism Ontario flag be raised at noon on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 for the balance of that day at Vaughan City Hall; and
- 3) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario York Region.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario York Region, received March 7, 2013 is attached. (Attachment 1) This request was received too late to be placed on the last Committee of the Whole meeting Agenda. Due to the time-sensitivity of the proclamation request to proclaim April 2, 2013 as World Autism Awareness Day and raise the Autism Ontario flag, we respectfully request that Council ratify the action taken.

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act"

Autism Ontario established in 1973 provides support, information and opportunities for many families. Their mandate is to educate, support research, raise public awareness and advocate for

programs and services for the autism community. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the most commonly recognized neurological disorder that affects 1 in every 94 children in Ontario.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020 plan:

Service Excellence

- Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness

Regional Implications

This report supports the promotion of awareness throughout the Region about autism.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that April 2, 2013 be proclaimed as "World Autism Awareness Day", that the Autism Ontario flag be raised at noon at Vaughan City Hall for the balance of the day, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and on the City Page Online. Given that the next meeting of Council is on April 23, 2013, this report recommends that Council ratify the decision at its meeting of March 19, 2013.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Correspondence from the Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario York Region,
received March 7, 2013

Report prepared by

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



PROCLAMATION

I, Mayor Bevilacqua of the City of Vaughan do hereby proclaim

April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day

WHERE AS:	World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized for the first time on April 2 nd , 2013, in Canada thanks to Liberal Senator Jim Munson's Bill S-206, <i>An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day</i> ; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 100,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community; and
WHERE AS:	ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means it not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each individual as well. A child with ASD will become an adult with ASD; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support, information and opportunities for thousands of families across the province; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community; and
THEREFORE:	I Mayor Bevilacqua, do hereby declare April 2 nd as World Autism Awareness Day.

Dated at Vaughan, Ontario this 2nd day of April, 2013

Sarah Dougald, Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario York Region Chapter