

## **COUNCIL – MARCH 19, 2013**

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST** **CARITAS MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That April 2013 be proclaimed as “CARITAS Month” in the City of Vaughan; and
- 2) 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 Executive Director, CARITAS.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence from the Executive Director, CARITAS received March 8, 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 2013 as CARITAS Month, 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”

CARITAS is an addiction and mental health recovery agency that serves York Region and Toronto. CARITAS is celebrating 25 years of service and the proclamation would be beneficial to raise public awareness of addictions and mental health challenges in Vaughan. CARITAS also holds a telethon during the month of April and this proclamation would help to raise much needed funds for their programs.

### **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**

N/A

### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that April 2013 be proclaimed as "CARITAS Month", 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 Executive Director, CARITAS, received March 8, 2013

### **Report prepared by**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



March 7, 2013

Mr. Jeff Abrams  
City Clerk  
Clerk's Department  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Delivered via email only to: [Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca)

Dear Mr. Abrams,

On behalf of CARITAS, an addiction and mental health recovery community agency serving York Region and Toronto, I am writing to ask for consideration to have the City of Vaughan proclaim April 2013 as CARITAS Month.

We are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and this proclamation would help immensely to increase public awareness of addictions and mental health challenges in Vaughan. In addition, April is our traditional telethon month on broadcast on TLN and CHIN. Mayor Bevilacqua and Council are familiar with our organization having supported and attended many of our public events.

Following are some insights into the issues CARITAS addresses:

- 1 in 10 Canadians 15 years of age and over report symptoms consistent with alcohol or illicit drug dependence.
- 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. The remaining 4 will have a friend, family member or colleague who will.
- Young people age 15-24 are more likely to report mental illness and/or substance use disorders than other age groups.
- The cost of substance abuse in Canada in 2002 was a staggering \$39.8 Billion.
- \$51 billion is the estimated cost of mental illness to the Canadian economy in terms of health care and lost productivity.
- 72% of Canadians would discuss diagnoses of cancer with others, compared to 68% who would tell others about diabetes in their families. Just 50% of Canadians would tell friends or coworkers that they have a family member with a mental illness. There are not exact documented percentages with regards to addiction. Despite the efforts by treatment professionals to change public perceptions of addiction, the stigma against addicts and their families remains perhaps the most widespread of all illnesses.
- Alcohol is a "depressant" drug. One in four Ontario teens is a binge drinker. One in twenty-five deaths worldwide are directly attributed to alcohol (1 in 10 in Europe).
- Tobacco kills more people each year than motor vehicle collisions, suicides, homicides and AIDS combined.

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 8 - 2013**

**CLERK'S DEPT.**



- According to the World Health Organization, depression will be the single biggest medical burden on health by 2020.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. Please let me know if anything else needs to be done in order for City Council to be aware of and consider our request.

Yours truly,

Tullio Orlando, MSW RSW  
Executive Director  
CARITAS

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