

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2015

Item 13, Report No. 20, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 19, 2015.

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**PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST
PRIDE WEEK**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated May 5, 2015:

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That June 13 to June 21, 2015 be proclaimed as "Pride Week";
2. That the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan during Pride Week, for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; 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 "Council – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region on behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region, dated March 20, 2015 is attached (Attachment 1).

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"

PFLAG Canada – York Region is a registered charity who is a member of the York Pride Fest Committee. The Committee is made up of a group of volunteer leaders who organizes York Region's Pride Week celebrations. This year marks the 15th anniversary of Pride Week in York

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Region. The proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The York Pride Fest Committee also requests that during Pride Week the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. City Council has granted this request in the past.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

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

Service Excellence

- Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness

Regional Implications

This proclamation will bring awareness of differences and protection of equality within the Region.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that June 13 to June 21, 2015 be proclaimed as "Pride Week", that the Rainbow Flag be raised at the Vaughan City Hall during Pride Week, for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Correspondence received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region, dated March 20, 2015

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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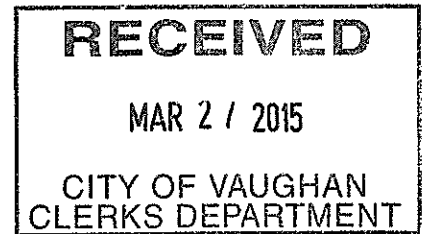
Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



York Region

333 Crosby Ave.,
Richmond Hill, ON. L4C 2R5
1-888-905-5428 ext 73



March 20th, 2015

Mr. Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk,
City Of Vaughan,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

RE: Request for Proclamation and Flag Raising for York Region Pride Week - June 13-21, 2015

Dear Mr. Abrams,

On behalf of York Pride Fest, I am writing to request your participation in Pride Week 2015.

The York Pride Fest team, made up of volunteer leaders, organizes York Region's Pride Week celebrations. PFLAG Canada - York Region, a registered charity and York Region's local chapter of the national PFLAG Canada organization, has been a proud member of York Pride Fest since its formation.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Pride Week in York Region.

York Pride Fest is requesting involvement and leadership from the City Of Vaughan through:

- **The proclamation** of Pride Week June 13th to June 21st, 2015. This proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region. For more than a decade York Region's Pride Week has, each year, been officially recognized by the Regional Municipality of York Region and proclaimed by all municipalities (except King Township and East Gwillimbury, which presently have 'no proclamations' policies).
- **The flying of the Rainbow Flag**, during Pride Week 2015, on a municipal flagstaff in the City Of Vaughan, in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. If needed, we would be delighted to provide a flag of a size to meet your preference. Last year York Region Pride Week was launched by official flag-raising ceremonies hosted by both the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Markham. Photographs from these events can be found on our website. Aurora, Georgina, Newmarket and the City of Vaughan also flew the Pride flag in 2014.

Please visit the *York Region Pride Fest* website at www.yorkpridefest.com for up-to-date information about events scheduled throughout the week, as well as a review of last year's Pride Week events. Contact Haran Vijayanathan at 416-529-7161 or haran.vijayanathan@yorkpridefest.com for more information

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to welcoming you to some of the exciting activities happening throughout York Region during Pride Week.

Sincerely,

Linda Keith
President, PFLAG Canada - York Region