

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2016**

Item 6, Report No. 24, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 7, 2016.

**6**

#### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST – NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK IN VAUGHAN**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Legal and Human Resources and the Chief Human Resources Officer, dated May 31, 2016:

##### **Recommendation**

The Deputy City Manager, Legal and Human Resources and the Chief Human Resources Officer, in consultation with the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, recommends:

1. That the presentation by the Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator be received;
2. That Council proclaim May 31, 2016 – June 6, 2016 National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) in Vaughan; and
3. That Council proclaim the first week of June National Access Awareness Week annually going forward.

##### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, and Objective 4.1:

- To foster a City with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

##### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact.

##### **Communications Plan**

In consultation with the Office of Corporate Communications, NAAW will be communicated through social media and the City's internal and external communication platforms.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to have May 31, 2016 – June 6, 2016 proclaimed NAAW by Council and present an outline of the initiatives.

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

National Access Awareness Week was first established in 1988 to better promote community access for people with disabilities. This initiative happened in response to a request from Rick Hansen following his "Man in Motion World Tour".

In recognition of NAAW, Vaughan is holding the following activities/events over a one week period:

- From May 31, - June 6, the Recreation Services department is offering free activities for people with disabilities.

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#### **Item 6, CW Report No. 24 – Page 2**

- On June 4, 2016, there will be an accessibility fair. The fair will feature businesses and organizations involved in different areas of accessibility. For example, equipment, therapy and recreation etc.
- The accessibility fair will take place from 10am-4pm in the cafetorium at the Vellore Community Centre.

The barriers people with disabilities face are more prevalent as a result of the environment in which they live in, rather than their impairment. Obstacles to participation stem more from the environment in which people live than from within the individual's perception of their abilities. These barriers can be prevented, reduced or eliminated.

The inclusivity of citizens with disabilities is a corporate-wide vision shared by Vaughan Council and staff as identified in Vaughan's corporate strategic plan. The City plays an important role in ensuring access for residents with disabilities and through the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). The role of the VAAC is to advise Council to support the City's work in identifying and removing barriers to lay the foundation for a barrier-free, inclusive community.

The VAAC formed a NAAW subcommittee to assist in NAAW promotion. Their guidance was very helpful in planning the activities/events for NAAW.

The City of Vaughan provides a number of programs and services for people with disabilities and regularly identifies and creates new opportunities to reflect the diverse and growing program needs of the community. Opportunities for persons with disabilities are vast and include the creative arts, health and wellness, life and social skills, performing arts, sports and leadership programs. In addition, Vaughan's Accessibility Plan outlines corporate and departmental objectives related to addressing accessibility issues and services at a corporate level.

#### **Relationship to Term of Council Strategy Map (2014-2018)**

This report supports the Vaughan Vision 2020 initiatives of Service Excellence, specifically to support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community and continue to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens.

#### **Regional Implications**

There are no regional implications.

#### **Conclusion**

National Access Awareness Week is an opportunity to promote the importance of accessibility. The week reminds us of the many contributions people with disabilities have made to society. It also reminds us of the physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that may exclude them from participating fully and effectively as equal members of society.

It reinforces the importance of being a City where people of all ages, backgrounds can thrive.

#### **Attachments**

None.

#### **Report prepared by:**

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, ext. 8641

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST –  
NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK IN VAUGHAN**

**Recommendation**

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#### **Attachments**

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#### **Report prepared by:**

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, ext. 8641

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Deputy City Manager,  
Legal and Human Resources

Demetre Rigakos,  
Chief Human Resources Officer