

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2015**

**2 PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST**  
**INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY**

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated June 16, 2015, be approved; and
- 2) That the following deputations be received:
  1. Mr. Rahul Pandey, WEConnect Community Services, Bachman Drive, Maple; and
  2. Ms. Sejal Gajjar, WEConnect Community Services, Bachman Drive, Maple.

1. That August 15, 2015 be proclaimed as “India Independence Day” in the City of Vaughan;
2. That the Indian flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall on August 15, 2015 for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising / Half Masting Policy;
3. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online; and
4. That a facility permit be issued for Sunday, August 15, 2015 to the WEConnect Community Services to use the Multi-Purpose Room for a reception and entertainment in accordance with the City’s Proclamation Policy subject to the payment of appropriate fees for overtime staffing and Facility User Group Insurance costs if required.

The correspondence received in the City Clerk's Office on May 26, 2015 from the Vice-President, WEConnect Community Services is attached (Attachment 1).

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2015**

#### **Item 2, CW Report No. 26 – Page 2**

The proclamation and flag raising request meets the City's Proclamation and Flag Raising / Half Masting Policies as follows:

"In recognition of the ethnic diversity of the residents of a municipality the City of Vaughan will fly at the Vaughan City Hall the flag of any nation, country or ethnic group on the national day or on the anniversary of a special occasion, upon written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance by that nation, or ethnic group or its representatives"; and

"If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdiction or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter".

India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947 and hence India Independence Day is celebrated on an annual basis. The South Asian community which numbers over 35,000 in the City of Vaughan and surrounding area proudly celebrates India's independence by holding cultural programs and numerous social activities. WEConnect Community Services, a non-profit organization based in Maple Ontario respectfully requests Vaughan City Council to proclaim India Independence on August 15, 2015, hold a flag raising ceremony followed by entertainment and reception in the Multi-Purpose Room.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

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

- STRATEGIC GOAL:  
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:  
Preserve Our Heritage & Support Diversity, Arts & Culture

#### **Regional Implications**

N/A

#### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that August 15, 2015 be proclaimed as "India Independence Day" in the City of Vaughan, that the Indian flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall on August 15, 2015 for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising / Half Masting Policy; that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online and that a facility permit be issued for Sunday, August 15, 2015 to the WEConnect Community Services to use the Multi-Purpose Room for entertainment and reception.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 Correspondence from the Vice-President, WEConnect Community Services received May 26, 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.)

**PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST**  
**INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That August 15, 2015 be proclaimed as "India Independence Day" in the City of Vaughan;
2. That the Indian flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall on August 15, 2015 for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising / Half Masting Policy;
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**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 Vice-President, WEConnect Community Services.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence received in the City Clerk's Office on May 26, 2015 from the Vice-President, WEConnect Community Services is attached (Attachment 1).

The proclamation and flag raising request meets the City's Proclamation and Flag Raising / Half Masting Policies as follows:

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### **Conclusion**

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### **Report prepared by**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



149 Bachman Drive, Maple, ON L6A 3R7 | Phone: 416-301-1291 | [www.weconnectcs.com](http://www.weconnectcs.com) | [info@weconnectcs.com](mailto:info@weconnectcs.com)

May 19, 2015

City Clerk  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L6A 1T1

Attention: City Clerk- City of Vaughan

**Re: India Independence Day Event on August 15, 2015 in partnership with the City of Vaughan**

Please accept this letter on behalf of WEConnect Community Services as our formal request to add, for consideration and approval, our proposal to the agenda of the upcoming Committee of the Whole. Sejal Gajjar, Coordinator of the programs and Rahul Pandey, Vice President (Cultural) of Media Group- Hindi Abroad will be speaking to the deputation.

India celebrates Independence Day on August 15 each year. India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947. It is a day when people of India pay homage to their leaders and those who fought for India's freedom in the past. The great Mahatma Gandhi was the father of the nation. His belief in non-violent movements during India's freedom struggle with the British lead to India's Independence.

India's Independence Day, one of the three national holidays in India (*the other two being the Republic Day on 26 January and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2 October*), is observed in all Indian states and union territories. Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs take place in governmental and non-governmental institutions throughout the country. Major government buildings are often adorned with strings of lights. In Delhi and some other cities, kite flying adds to the occasion.

Statistics show that Vaughan and surrounding areas consists of over 35 000 South Asian community members. It would be a great privilege for the members of the Vaughan community to celebrate the raising of the Indian flag at Vaughan City Hall.

In recognition of India Independence Day we seek the opportunity to review the following items with the Committee:

1. An official flag raising ceremony and proclamation for India Independence day on August 15, 2015 with a reception to follow in the Multi-purpose room at Vaughan City Hall.

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 26 2015**

**CLERK'S DEPT.**



149 Bachman Drive, Maple, ON L6A 3R7 | Phone: 416-301-1291 | [www.weconnectcs.com](http://www.weconnectcs.com) | [info@weconnectcs.com](mailto:info@weconnectcs.com)

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Subsequent to Committee approval, both resources and support needs from the City of Vaughan for each event will be discussed in detail. However, at present we seek City's support as permission to use of the MPR room for the flag raising reception event, setup for the reception and support for distribution of promotional material and social media. The organization will provide the Flag as per the standards outlined by the City of Vaughan.

At the flag raising at City Hall, our invited delegates will unfurl India's flag and hold a speech in the presence of Vaughan City Council, invited guests and community members. During the flag raising celebration, there will be playing Indian patriotic songs for the community members. We will have media presence and outreach strategy to promote the celebration of India's Independence Day for the first time in Vaughan. We would like to coordinate some visuals to be shown in the Multi-purpose room to the community members while they enjoy the celebrations and refreshments during the event.

All activities are to be presented as a partnership with the City of Vaughan and we are most confident that a significant percentage of our community will participate.

Should you require further information and/or clarification please feel free to contact us at 416-301-1291 or via email at [info@weconnectcs.com](mailto:info@weconnectcs.com)

Trusting in a favourable response, we thank you in advance for your continued co-operation.

Respectfully,

WEConnect Community Services

Per:

Sejal Gajjar  
Vice-President  
CC: R. Pandey  
Cc : Barbara.McEwan (via email)  
Cc : Connie Bonsignore (via email)  
Cc : Mirella Tersigni (via email)