

**VAUGHAN**

C 2  
COMMUNICATION

SPECIAL COUNCIL  
December 15/15  
ITEM - 1

memorandum

**DATE:** December 11, 2015

**TO:** MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM:** LAURA MIRABELLA-SIDDALL, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/CITY TREASURER  
LLOYD NORONHA, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE /  
DEPUTY CITY TREASURER  
DEAN FERRARO, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES/DEPUTY CITY TREASURER

**RE:** SPECIAL COUNCIL – DECEMBER 15, 2015  
DRAFT 2016 BUDGET AND 2017-2018 PLAN

**2015 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

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**Recommendation:**

The Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer, Director of Financial Planning and Development Finance/Deputy City Treasurer, and Director of Financial Services/Deputy City Treasurer recommend;

1. That the following report and formal presentation of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), for the City's 2015 Budget be received.

**Economic Impact:**

Not applicable

**Background:**

**City of Vaughan receives the 2015 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

The Government of Financial Officers Association presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Vaughan, Ontario for its 2015 budget. This is the seventh time the City of Vaughan has received the award in as many years. The award represents a significant achievement by the City of Vaughan and reflects the commitment of the municipality and staff to meet the fundamental principles of Government budgeting.

**The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)**

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit international professional association serving more than 18,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. It has experienced a steady growth in the past 10 years, adding more than 5,000 finance professionals to their organization. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management.

**The GFOA Distinguished Budget Award Program**

The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award Program has been promoting the preparation of high quality budget documents for over 30 years. More than 1450 governments of all levels across North America have received this award for their 2014 budgets (480 as of September 30, 2015 for their 2015 budgets).

Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

In order to receive the award, the City of Vaughan had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The 2015 budget document was rated by three independent reviewers on 27 criteria, covering four categories. According to GFOA's website to be eligible, "a budget document must be rated either proficient or outstanding by at least two of the three reviewers for all four basic categories, as well as for 14 of the 27 specific criteria identified as mandatory". These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget document serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operational guide
- A communications device

Having successfully completed the necessary criteria, the City of Vaughan has been awarded a certificate of recognition. A copy of this is enclosed as an attachment.

**Conclusion:**

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program provides a framework and criteria to assist organizations achieve the goal of improving their budget document. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Vaughan is honoured to receive the City's seventh consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for its 2015 Budget.

Prepared by:  
Jackie Lee Macchiusi, CPA, CGA  
Senior Manager, Corporate Financial Planning & Analysis

**Attachment**

1. 2015 Certificate of Recognition and Budget Award

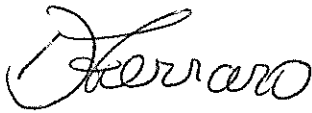
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Mirabella-Siddall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the "i" in "Siddall".

Laura Mirabella-Siddall, CPA, CA  
Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd Noronha". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the "i" in "Noronha".

Lloyd Noronha, CPA, CMA  
Director of Financial Planning and Development Finance/Deputy City Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Ferraro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the "i" in "Ferraro".

Dean Ferraro, CPA, CA  
Director of Financial Services/Deputy City Treasurer



The Government Finance Officers Association  
of the United States and Canada

*presents this*

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

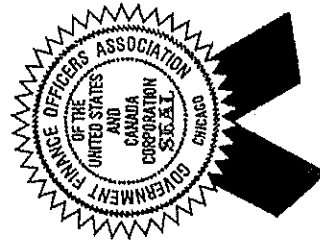
*to*

Financial Planning & Analytics  
City of Vaughan, Ontario

*The Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to those individuals who have been instrumental in their government unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest award in governmental budgeting, is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards.*

Executive Director

Date      November 13, 2015





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**City of Vaughan  
Ontario**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**January 1, 2015**

Executive Director