

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 1, 2004

PROCLAMATIONS POLICY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services in consultation with the City Clerk recommends that a Proclamations Policy be established from and after the date of this report to provide:

“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* ,
- (ii) which are promoted by any organization that either holds a Gaming Identification Number from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario or which is eligible to receive a Lottery License from the Clerk, or
- (ii) 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”.

Purpose

To report on and assess further opening up the proclamation policy to include issuance of proclamations not necessarily requested by a registered charitable organization as directed by Council at its meeting held on February 9, 2004.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council recently amended its proclamation policy to issue proclamations in respect of organizations that are registered under the Income Tax Act for the purpose of being able to issue receipts for income tax purposes. Council has directed that staff report on further opening up the policy.

To broaden the policy to include any organization whether a registered charity or not may not be desirable in that Council could be obliged to issue proclamations to any manner or organizations some of which Council may not wish to issue proclamations such as white supremacy groups, among others.

An additional reasonable criterion to utilize could be that used by the municipality to determine if an organization is eligible to receive a lottery license. Generally, charitable or religious organizations are eligible to receive a lottery license from the City to raise funds for charitable or religious purposes defined as the relief of poverty, advancement of religion, the advancement of education and other charitable purposes beneficial to the community (examples of groups that fall under this last category include those dedicated to the nature of cultural, ethnic or native pursuits, community projects undertaken by services clubs, certain health and welfare programs and certain sports organizations). The same criteria is used to determine eligibility to receive a provincial lottery license.

It is staff's opinion that it would be appropriate for Council to open up its proclamation policy to include issuing proclamations in respect of organizations that are eligible to receive a lottery license. This would be much less restrictive than the current policy but still ensure that proclamations would be issued in respect of charitable or religious organizations or groups with purposes beneficial to the community.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

N/A

Conclusion

The extension of the proclamation policy from those organizations that are registered charities to those that are eligible for lottery licenses broadens the qualification substantially while ensuring that the organization is scrutinized by the Clerk's Department to exclude any organizations which do not have objects in the public interest.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Swayze, Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services