

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 22, 2004

RESOLUTION ON ZERO TOLERANCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase and Councillor Susan Kadis recommend that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the City of Vaughan has recently experienced acts of vandalism to private property in the community of Thornhill;

AND WHEREAS these acts of vandalism are anti-Semitic hate crimes that clearly target the Jewish community;

AND WHEREAS this anti-Semitic vandalism is a crime against the entire community and is offensive to all residents of the City of Vaughan;

AND WHEREAS Vaughan Vision 2007 commits the City of Vaughan to promoting a safe and livable environment and improving community safety through design, prevention, enforcement and education;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of Vaughan supports the objectives of the Community Relations Committee and the Safe City Committee to promote the fulfillment of human rights, to promote mutual trust and respect among Vaughan's diverse community groups and the institutions and agencies serving them; and to support initiatives to maintain and enhance community safety;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vaughan supports the activities of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada to raise public awareness of racism and to eliminate hate crimes in the community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Vaughan publicly denounces all acts of anti-Semitic vandalism and declares zero tolerance of hate crimes against any member of our community and calls upon the legal authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of hate crimes to the full extent of the law;

AND THAT the Council of the City of Vaughan directs the City Clerk to communicate this resolution to area municipalities, the Region of York, York Region Police and the Province of Ontario.

Purpose

To adopt a Council resolution that reaffirms the City of Vaughan's commitment to promote understanding and harmony in the community and the fulfillment of human rights.

Background - Analysis and Options

This Council resolution is intended to raise public awareness of racism and hate crimes, and demonstrate Council's support, on behalf of all residents of the City of Vaughan, of the York Region Police and those community groups dedicated to promoting human rights and eliminating hate crimes against Canadians, whatever their religion or ethnicity.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This resolution is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council through the Vaughan Vision 2007 to promote a safe and livable environment and improve community safety through design, prevention, enforcement and education.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Vaughan Council adopt a resolution on the City of Vaughan's zero tolerance of anti-Semitic vandalism.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Di Biase
Mayor

Susan Kadis
Councillor, Ward 5