

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 11, 2005

CONSULTATION WITH POTENTIAL PUBLIC SECTOR USERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO-LOCATION AT THE VAUGHAN CIVIC CENTRE REGION OF YORK – PROVINCIAL OFFENCES COURT

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

That the Region of York be advised of the City of Vaughan's interest in bringing a Regionally operated Provincial Offences Court to the Vaughan Civic Centre;

That the City initiate discussions with the Region of York to further investigate such opportunities; and

That staff be authorized to work with the professional advisor and architectural team, as required, to assess the programming needs for such a facility and develop concepts to illustrate potential designs and development opportunities in support of negotiations with the Region.

Economic Impact

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's authorization to explore opportunities to bring a Provincial Offences Act court facility to the Civic Centre site as part of a comprehensively planned public use campus.

Background – Analysis and Options

The Civic Centre Masterplan includes provision for an office building to the west of the new City Hall along the frontage of Major Mackenzie Drive. This building has been identified for potential public uses including long-term expansion space for Vaughan's administration and other office uses. Including government related activities in this building would serve to create a campus of public sector uses consolidated on a single site. This would provide a wider range of services to the public and reinforce the site's role as a focus for civic functions. It would also assist by providing funding partners that could facilitate the construction of this building, thus accelerating the completion of the Masterplan concept.

A Provincial Offences Court is one public use that warrants strong consideration for co-location at the Civic Centre. The Region of York is responsible for the operation of Provincial Offences Act Courts. These courts deal with charges laid under provincial statutes and municipal by-laws, such as traffic offences and property standards and building code violations. This type of court can be accommodated in an office building setting, unlike provincial courts (e.g. Superior Court of Justice, Ontario Court of Justice), which are purpose built in order to accommodate more rigorous security measures. A Provincial Offences Court would still allow the building to retain its long-term flexibility, should the needs of the City or Region change in the future.

The Region of York is growing rapidly, especially in the southern three municipalities. As such, the Region of York is assessing its long-term office space needs. The City has been discussing the co-location of certain Regional functions at the Civic Centre site. Locating a Provincial Offences Act Court at the Civic Centre is another consideration that has strong merit. It is noted that the Region is conducting a court services review, which will influence decisions on future

court locations. This review will examine whether it is preferred to provide such services locally or at a single centralized location.

The Region of York will have to be contacted about the potential for locating a Provincial Offences Act Court at the Civic Centre site. Therefore, it is recommended that Council advise the Region of York of the City of Vaughan's interest in locating a Provincial Offences Act Court at the Civic Centre. Further, Council should direct that the City initiate discussions with the Region to investigate the opportunities for locating a court at the Civic Centre. Finally, staff should be authorized to work with the professional advisor (The Ventin Group) and the architect (KPMB Architects) for the Civic Centre to develop concepts for the building including Region of York uses, if required to further negotiations.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The recommendation contained in this report is consistent with the objectives Section 4.2 "Develop a new Vaughan Civic Centre that encourages a 'people place'".

Conclusion

The addition of complementary public uses to the Civic Centre site will help in the creation of a comprehensively planned campus that can bring new and enhanced services to the residents of Vaughan. A Provincial Offences Court is one such service. It is opportune to consider a Provincial Offences Court on the Civic Centre site at this time, given the court services review that the Region is now undertaking. Given the potential synergies, it is an opportunity worth investigating and the City should signal its interest.

It is recommended that Council advise the Region of the City's interest in accommodating a Provincial Offences Act Court at the Civic Centre and that discussion with the Region be initiated. Staff should also be authorized to work with the Civic Centre architectural team to prepare conceptual designs for the building to support negotiations with the Region. Therefore, it is recommended that the recommendation set out above be adopted.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase

CivicCentreSept19-05CW