

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 15, 2006

ROADSIDE MEMORIALS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that the City of Vaughan adopt a "Roadside Memorial" policy;

And that this report be referred to the Region of York for consideration regarding Regional Roads.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact as a result of the new policy.

Purpose

This report is to introduce a Corporate Policy relating to "Roadside Memorials".

Background - Analysis and Options

From time to time, road fatalities occur, with makeshift memorials being erected at the scene shortly after. These memorials generally include flowers, photographs, crosses, or a combination of these items.

These memorials have the potential to create distractions to motorists and interfere with maintenance of City property and roads.

It may be appropriate to develop a policy to outline the placement and display of memorials within the City of Vaughan. This policy would deal with municipal road allowances.

At present, no other municipality in York Region has adopted a policy; the Region of Peel has recently developed and adopted a policy.

It is proposed that such a policy would:

- provide for recording the memorials as the City is made aware of them;
- ensure that memorials are placed for no more than a twelve month period after which time they must be removed;
- ensure that the memorials are discreet and are not a potential distraction to vehicles;
- ensure that no damage is done to City property.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 in that it promotes matters of community safety, health and wellness. The necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

A roadside memorial policy will improve safety and provide a consistent process for management.

Attachments

Roadside Memorial Policy

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Respectfully submitted,

Janice Atwood-Petkovski
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services

PLACEMENT AND DISPLAY OF MEMORIALS

A. PURPOSE

This document outlines the policy for the placement and display of memorials on any road allowance within the City of Vaughan for the purpose of commemorating the lives of persons who have died as a result of a motor vehicle related accident.

B. SCOPE

This policy applies to any staff required to provide information to the general public regarding the placement of memorials.

C. GENERAL

The Municipal Act permits municipalities to regulate the use of its highways. This includes permitting any person, subject to conditions, to place, construct, install, maintain and use objects in, on, under or over its highways. The Act provides that the municipality is liable for losses as a result of any such installations. The Ontario Traffic Manual regulates the placing of prescribed and official signs where required by the Highway Traffic Act or Regulations. Such signs may be erected by public authority having jurisdiction over the particular highway. Where a municipal by-law is required, the sign shall not be erected without the authority of such by-law.

D. PROCEDURE

The Public Works Department will:

- a) provide for recording the memorials as the City is made aware of them;
- b) ensure that memorials are placed for no more than a twelve month period after which time they must be removed;
- c) ensure that the memorials are discreet and are not a potential distraction to vehicles;
- d) ensure that no damage is done to City property.

APPROVED:
ORIGINAL DATE:
LAST REVIEWED:
LAST UPDATED: