

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – DECEMBER 3, 2007

DEPUTATION OF MS. DINAH M. CRUSE-HUNTER WITH RESPECT TO A MONUMENT FOR COLONEL DAVID BRIDGEFORD

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

1. That Ms. Dinah M. Cruse-Hunter continue to work with the Town of Richmond Hill in the commemorative project honouring Colonel David Bridgeford.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact related to the staff recommendation in this report.

Communications Plan

Any decision of Council as it relates to this item will be communicated to Ms. Cruse-Hunter.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to address Council's direction of September 10, 2007, to provide a report clarifying the request from Ms. Dinah M. Cruse-Hunter, a deputant at Council and her presentation on the historical figure of Colonel David Bridgeford.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 10, 2007, Ms. Dinah M. Cruse-Hunter made a deputation to Council related to Colonel David Bridgeford. Council directed that staff provide a report clarifying the deputant's request.

Ms. Cruse-Hunter has advised staff that she is requesting the City of Vaughan provide a financial contribution towards a commissioned monument at the gravesite of Colonel David Bridgeford, located in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Richmond Hill. Ms. Cruse-Hunter is currently working with the Town of Richmond Hill to raise funds for the gravesite monument in honour of Col. Bridgeford. Additionally, Ms. Cruse-Hunter is working with the Town to organize a parade along Yonge Street and a War of 1812/Rebellion of 1837 military encampment/re-enactment. The dedication/unveiling ceremony, parade and reenactment is being planned for October 18, 2008 in the Town of Richmond Hill. This date marks the 140th anniversary of Col. Bridgeford's death.

Colonel Bridgeford fought for the British at the Battle of Queenston Heights in the War of 1812 and played a pivotal role in the Rebellion of 1837. He was a magistrate and coroner for the County of York and built the first hotel in Richmond Hill. Although Col. David Bridgeford held political office in Vaughan from 1850 to 1860 and was Reeve in 1858, he lived on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill most of his life and is more closely related to its history. Ms. Cruse-Hunter is the third great granddaughter of Col. Bridgeford.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The Vaughan Vision encourages the preservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage environment and encourages the preservation of significant historical structures and communities.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications associated with the approval of this report.

Conclusion

Although Colonel Bridgeford is a noteworthy historical figure in the history of Upper Canada (Ontario), his home and business was in Richmond Hill and is more closely related to the history of that community. It is recommended that Ms. Cruse-Hunter continue to work with the Town of Richmond Hill in this initiative as she has already been in contact with them with regard to the planning and site selection for this project.

Attachments

None

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services