

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 3, 2008

SUBTITLING CHALONE CRESCENT "MARCO'S WAY"

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works in consultation with the Commissioners of Planning and Community Services and the Fire Chief recommends that:

1. The residents of Chalone Crescent be advised of the City's tree dedication and bench dedication programs.
2. The subtitling of streets not be implemented.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts to the City resulting from the recommendation of this report.

Communications Plan

The local Councillor will advise the petitioners of Council's decision.

Purpose

To respond to Council direction on this matter.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of May 12, 2008 approved item 13, Report No. 24, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 12, 2008, as follows:

"2. That staff be directed to report to the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 3, 2008, on the request by the residents of Chalone Crescent to the subtitling of Chalone Crescent as "Marco's Way".

Street Names are Carefully Selected

Street names are applied through a process that is careful to ensure that there is no duplication of street names in the City or across the Region. Planning Department staff review proposed names for suitability and duplication and co-ordinate with Region of York staff. Vaughan Council reviews and approves proposed street names. It is noted that there is a street in Vaughan named Marco Crescent in the Langstaff/Pine Valley Drive area.

Subtitling a Street May Cause Confusion

As indicated above, each street is named with a unique name so that it can be readily identified. Street names are recorded in databases both at the area municipality and regional level and are shown on printed and electronic databases. Emergency response services (fire, police, ambulance) require clear, unambiguous street addresses to respond to emergency calls. Any lack of clarity, duplication, ambiguity or incorrect information can lead to confusion about the location of the call and a delay in response with potential tragic consequences. The subtitled name would not appear on maps or in databases.

If a street was subtitled with another name, persons not familiar with the area may incorrectly assume that the subtitled name was the actual name. Over time, residents of the area may, through referring to the street by its subtitled name, mistakenly give the wrong street name in an emergency. A missing or obscured actual street name sign could result in the street being identified by its subtitled name.

In addition to the foregoing, the installation of a street name subtitle would set a precedent that could lead to multiple requests for other streets or even for other subtitles on a previously subtitled street.

Tree and Bench Dedication Programs are Available

The City of Vaughan's Tree Dedication program provides an opportunity for trees to be planted in neighborhood parks to commemorate a special occasion or as a memorial. The Parks and Forestry department oversees the maintenance of all trees on City property. Through regular inspections, trees are monitored for replacement and pruning. Tree requests received prior to April 1 are planted within the year. Those received after April 1 are planted the following year. Individual species are carefully selected by Parks and Forestry staff to suit existing site conditions and their ability to enhance the natural and wildlife environment.

Tree dedications can be ordered through the Parks and Forestry Department at a cost of \$250 for a tree and an additional \$200 for an optional plaque. Plaque wording can be submitted by the applicant for review and implementation.

The City also administers a bench dedication program. Dedicating a bench inscribed with the name of a loved one is a permanent link with the community. This program is also administered by the Parks and Forestry Department.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The placement of a sign with a subtitle for a street name could lead to confusion regarding the actual street name and result in a delay in emergency vehicle response time. It also establishes a precedent that could lead to requests for other subtitles on the same street or on other streets and become a difficult to regulate practice. A tree or bench dedication is an appropriate way to memorialize a loved one.

Attachments

Location Map

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.,
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

ATTACHMENT No. 1



