

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 24, 2012

PROCLAMATION - MAY AS JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

1. That Council proclaim the month of May as “Jewish Heritage Month” in the City of Vaughan for 2012 and for subsequent years hereafter;
2. That the list of activities to be held in May 2012 in the City of Vaughan to commemorate Jewish Heritage Month, be received, and,
3. That the City’s activities be posted on the City’s website and promoted at City facilities.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, and Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of programs associated with Jewish Heritage Month celebrations will be covered by the organizing/host group and agency. Some printing and promotional costs will be covered through the 2012 Cultural Services Operating Budget.

Communications Plan

The proclamation of May as Jewish Heritage Month and the list of activities will be posted on the City’s website, Council Calendar of Events, and promoted throughout the City and community centres and Vaughan Public Libraries.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to proclaim the month of May as Jewish Heritage Month.

Background - Analysis and Options

In February 2012, the Province of Ontario passed Bill 17, the Jewish Heritage Act declaring the month of May as Jewish Heritage Month across Ontario. The month recognizes the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Ontario’s social, economic, political and cultural fabric. It is an opportunity to remember and educate future generation about the significant role that Jewish Canadians have made and continue to make in communities across Ontario.

The 2006 Canada Census identified approximately 13% of Vaughan’s population being of either of Jewish descent. Ontario is home to more than 200,000 people of Jewish origin making it the province with the largest Jewish demographic.

The celebration of Jewish Heritage Month supports the City of Vaughan’s Diversity Strategy, as approved by Council in 2010, which identifies the goal of “to create opportunities for creative cultural expression and dialogue”, within the City.

At this time, City staff is working with community organizations and agencies to finalize an art exhibit to be installed at the City Hall Atrium Gallery in May.

All finalized events will be posted on the City website and promoted through Vaughan community centres and libraries.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, this report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

In celebrating Jewish Heritage Month, the City reaffirms its efforts to build an inclusive community. Importantly, it is an opportunity to highlight Vaughan's rich diversity and celebrate and learn about the art and culture of our Jewish community.

Attachments

None

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

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