COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – MAY 15, 2012

PROCLAMATION REQUEST
PRIDE WEEK

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1) That June 16th through June 24th, 2012 be proclaimed as "Pride Week";

2) That the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and

3) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region on behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region, dated April 12, 2012, is attached. (Attachment 1)

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

(i) Which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act"

PFLAG Canada – York Region is a registered charity who is a member of the York Pride Fest Committee. The Committee is made up of a group of volunteer leaders that organizes York Region's Pride Week celebrations and this year marks the 12th anniversary. The proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The York Pride Fest Committee also requests that during Pride Week 2012 the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. City Council has granted this request in the past.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

Regional Implications

This proclamation will bring awareness of differences and protection of equality within the Region.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that June 16th through June 24th, 2012 be proclaimed as "Pride Week" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Correspondence received from the President, PFLAG Canada – York Region, dated April 12, 2012

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

Attachment 1

PFLAG CANADA

York Region

333 Crosby Ave.,
Richmond Hill, ON. L4C 2R5
1.888.905.5428 ext 73

RECEIVED
APR 19 2012
CITY OF VAUGHAN
CLERKS DEPARTMENT

April 12th, 2012

Mr. Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk,
City Of Vaughan,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

RE: Request for Proclamation and Flag Raising for York Region Pride Week - June 16-24, 2012

Dear Mr. Abrams,

On behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee, I am writing to request your participation in Pride Week 2012.

The York Pride Fest Committee, made up of volunteer leaders, organizes York Region's Pride Week celebrations. PFLAG Canada - York Region, a registered charity and York Region's local chapter of the national PFLAG Canada organization, has been a proud member of the York Pride Fest Committee since its formation.

This year marks the twelfth anniversary of Pride Week in York Region. York Pride Fest is requesting involvement and leadership from the City Of Vaughan through the proclamation of Pride Week June 16th to June 24th, 2012. This proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region.

In recent years, York Region Pride week has been proclaimed by all municipalities (except King Township, which has a 'no proclamations' policy). Last year marked York Region Pride Week's first official flag-raising ceremony in Richmond Hill. Aurora, Georgina, Markham, Newmarket and the city of Vaughan also flew the Pride flag in 2011. We request that during Pride Week 2012 the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City Of Vaughan, in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. If needed, we would be delighted to provide a flag of a size to meet your preference.

Please visit the *York Region Pride Fest* website at ***www.yorkpridefest.com*** for up-to-date information about events scheduled throughout the week. Contact *Haran Vijayanathan at 416-529-7161 or* ***haran.v1@yorkpridefest.com*** *for more information*

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to welcoming you to some of the exciting activities happening throughout York Region during Pride Week.

Sincerely,

L. Keith

Linda Keith
President, PFLAG Canada - York Region