

COUNCIL – JANUARY 24, 2005

**REQUEST FOR PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE
(ITEM 11, BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2004)**

Recommendation

The Budget Committee recommends:

That the following resolution of Councillor Meffe be adopted:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is receiving requests for financial assistance from the other municipalities in the Province;

WHEREAS many of the budgetary issues facing municipalities in Ontario are common to municipalities throughout the Province;

WHEREAS there are local municipal cost increases directly attributable to meeting provincial requirements;

WHEREAS the City of Vaughan has worked hard to achieve low property tax rates and the lowest property tax ratios in the province;

WHEREAS affordability and the level of property taxation is a concern to the City of Vaughan;

WHEREAS the level of property taxation is directly impacted by the funding of provincially mandated services and administering provincial social policies;

WHEREAS the ability to further increase property taxes is a concern to the City of Vaughan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to avoid a property tax increase greater than the rate of inflation the Provincial government be requested to provide financial assistance to the City of Vaughan in the amount of \$5.6 million;

That the Province of Ontario review what services are currently funded from property taxation with the objective of funding the implementation and administration of broad social policies from a source other than property taxation; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the local MPP's.