

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST –  
SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH JUNE 2004**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June be proclaimed as “SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that staff issue a news release.

**Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Chair, Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

A request has been received from the Chair, Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario to proclaim June as “Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month” (Attachment #1)

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy: *“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters: which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.*

The Chair, Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario has requested the City publicize this proclamation to encourage all Ontarians to learn more about the association and appreciate the challenges faced by individuals affected by this condition. The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Events – Proclamations”. Publishing proclamations on the City Page depends on space availability.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

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

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending the month of June 2004 be proclaimed as “Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

**Attachments**

- Attachment 1 - Correspondence from the Chair, Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario, dated May 31, 2004

**Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

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John D. Leach, City Clerk

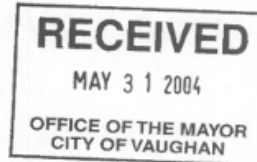
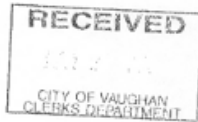


ATTACHMENT NO.:

*Spirit. Breakthrough & Hope*

May 31, 2004

Mayor Michael Di Biase  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L6A 1T1



Dear Mayor Di Biase:

For over 30 years, the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario (SBHAO), a registered charity, has been committed to making a positive difference in the lives of individuals affected by spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus (sb/h). The Association supports those with sb/h and their families through the challenges brought on by these serious, disabling conditions.

Spina bifida is a neural tube defect which occurs within the first four weeks of pregnancy. The spinal column fails to develop properly, resulting in varying degrees of permanent damage to the baby's spinal cord and nervous system. Hydrocephalus is an excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within the brain due to a blockage. The accumulation of CSF causes the ventricles in the brain to enlarge. Hydrocephalus occurs in approximately eighty-five to ninety percent of persons with spina bifida. It may be present at birth (congenital) but can also be acquired through head injury, brain tumour, haemorrhage, disease (such as meningitis), the aging process and other causes which are still unknown.

Hydrocephalus and spina bifida are life long, complex conditions for which there is no cure. Left untreated they may even cause death. Living with these conditions, either separate or in combination, presents many challenges to individuals and their families. Those affected usually have mobility impairments, bowel and bladder dysfunction, learning disabilities, seizure disorders, medical issues and other complications.

As June is recognized by Health Canada as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month, we are requesting that the province of Ontario make the same declaration. We enclose a sample declaration for your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Derryn V. Gill  
Chair, Board of Directors

Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario

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## SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario serves people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families; and
- WHEREAS** Health Canada has proclaimed June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month; and
- WHEREAS** the there are many people who are not aware of the Association or that it offers support, information and education programs and funds research to find ways to prevent and treat these conditions; and
- WHEREAS** the Association encourages all Ontarians to learn more about these conditions and to appreciate the challenges faced by individuals affected by them, therefore

### BE IT RESOLVED

That the City of Vaughan hereby proclaims the month of June to be

### SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH

in City of Vaughan and I urge all citizens to give full consideration and attention to the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario for their work on behalf of those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families.

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Signature

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Date