

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST –
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That February 2005 be proclaimed as “**Black History 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 President of the Vaughan African Canadian Association.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the President of the Vaughan African Canadian Association, dated November 8, 2004, is attached (Attachment #1).

The Community Relations Committee at its meeting of October 13, 2004, made the following recommendation: “That the City of Vaughan proclaim February 2005 as Black History Month. (Attachment #2).

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy: *“If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdiction or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter”*.

The Vaughan African Canadian Association has requested the City publicize this proclamation to promote educational, health-related, arts-based recreational and social programs to the African-Canadian community in York Region in general, and in the City of Vaughan in particular. 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. Corporate Communications will, given sufficient lead-time, issue news releases in support of the proclamation.

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 February 2005 be proclaimed as “Black History 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 Vaughan African Canadian Association, dated November 8, 2004
- Attachment #2 - Correspondence from Gina Soriano, General Programmes Supervisor, dated November 17, 2004

Report prepared by:

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Vaughan African Canadian Association

November 8, 2004

John Leach
City Clerk, City of Vaughan
2141 Major McKenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

Dear John Leach and Members of Vaughan Council:

I greet you on behalf of the Vaughan African Canadian Association.

We are a newly formed not-for-profit organization serving the residents of the City of Vaughan.

Please find enclosed a copy of our Mandate.

We are writing to you today to ask for your support in recognizing the significant contributions of the African Canadian community by officially declaring February as Black History Month in the city of Vaughan commencing February, 2005 and thereafter.

As residents of the city of Vaughan we look forward to educating the public on the history of the Black experience in Canada, Africa and the Diaspora. We hope to host a cultural event in February 2005 for the city of Vaughan to celebrate the diversity of the African Canadian community.

We know that residents of the city of Vaughan from the African/Caribbean community will feel a great sense of pride and appreciation should council declare February, Black History Month.

Thank you very much for your indulgence in this matter. Please keep us posted as to the outcome of our motion.

Sincerely,

Fitz-Roy Gordon
President
Vaughan African Canadian Association

FG/sm



Vaughan African Canadian Association

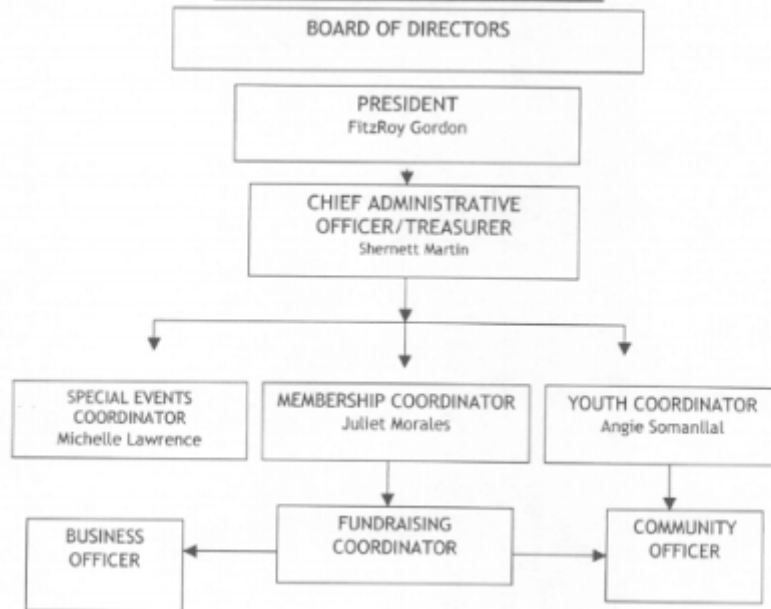
BACKGROUND

The Vaughan African Canadian Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on July 05, 2004. At present, the association operates from 641 Napa Valley Avenue in Woodbridge, Ontario. Our operations are governed and supervised by five board members including the President. Our membership is open to anyone who accepts our mission, value statement and mandate.

The Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties. The President is responsible for the overall program, vision, membership and effectiveness of the organization.

At the time of this writing we are planning our inaugural meeting and expect to have a large turnout of residents from York Region and surrounding areas. We have had a tremendous interest from residents interested in joining the association.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Vaughan African Canadian Association

Constitution/Bylaws/Policies

- Art I There is established by the President and approved by the Board of Directors a not-for-profit organization which shall be called the Vaughan African Canadian Association, hereinafter referred to as VACA.
- Art II Derivation of Authority:
VACA derives its authority and responsibilities from this constitution, and shall be subject to its members
- Art. III Purpose and responsibilities
The purpose of VACA shall be:
- To provide educational, health-related, arts-based recreational, and social programs to the African-Canadian community in York Region in general, and in the city of Vaughan in particular.
- To promote and educate the public on the prevention of, and curative measures for, health related illnesses affecting the African Canadian community;
- To educate the public and professionals on numerous issues by offering courses, seminars, conferences and meeting and by collecting and disseminating information;
- To provide life-management counseling and other support services to assist members of the community;
- To organize or participate in environmental projects designed to preserve, protect, and/or improve the environment in York Region;
- To produce performing arts events, and hold workshops on the arts from an African-Canadian perspective for the purposes of educating and advancing an understanding and appreciation of performing arts;
- To provide education, counseling and other support services for immigrants and refugees in need including language instruction, employment training, job search programs, and information programs;
- To provide full-scale child and youth educational, recreational, wellness, and social arts-based programs for the African-Canadian youths in York Region;
- To establish, maintain and support an office building in accordance with the purpose of the association's mandate



Wednesday November 17, 2004

To: John Leach, City Clerk

From: Gina Soriano, General Programmes Supervisor

Re: **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REQUEST
TO PROCLAIM FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

At the Community Relations Committee meeting of October 13, 2004, the Committee made the following recommendation:

MOVED by Councillor Carella
seconded by Oksana Majaski

THAT the City of Vaughan proclaim February as Black History Month.

CARRIED

Please advise whether this request will be forwarded to Council through your office or whether Diane LaPointe-Kay should be the one to take this report forward.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Gina Soriano, General Programmes

copy: Diane LaPointe-Kay, Director of Recreation and Culture

memorandum