

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 7, 2005

CITY OF VAUGHAN CITIZENS' CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends the adoption and dissemination of the *City of Vaughan Citizens' Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* to households, businesses and elementary and secondary schools within the City of Vaughan; and to other municipalities in the Province of Ontario

Purpose

To educate the citizens of Vaughan in respect of their rights and responsibilities vis-à-vis the municipal corporation and their fellow citizens

Background - Analysis and Options

There is a concern over the collective decline in the sense of community, particularly in the notion of mutual obligation to respect the rights of others and meet one's own responsibilities to fellow citizens. To address this issue, Councillor Carella suggested the development of a document which would outline the rights of citizens vis-à-vis their municipal government, and their responsibilities vis-à-vis such government and fellow citizens. Councillor Carella presented this charter at the last budget committee meeting of 2004, in anticipation of any costs which might be connected to its publication. The final draft is attached for the consideration of this committee, and by Council at its meeting of February 14, 2005.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The statement which begins Vaughan Vision 2007 reads: "The City of Vaughan will be a model community that places citizens first through service excellence." The creation and dissemination of a *City of Vaughan Citizens' Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* will establish Vaughan as a model in the field of citizenship education

Conclusion

The *City of Vaughan Citizens' Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* will help those who live and work within the boundaries of the City of Vaughan to appreciate what are their rights and responsibility vis-à-vis their local government and fellow residents and co-workers.

Attachments

City of Vaughan Citizens' Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

City of Vaughan

Citizens' Charter of Rights & Responsibilities

Every citizen has a right to...

- *Live in a municipality in which all mandated services are delivered effectively and efficiently*
- *Live in a municipality that promotes community safety, health, and wellness, while safeguarding the natural environment*
- *Live in a municipality that is financially secure---by promoting diversified economic development to protect and enhance its revenue base*
- *Live in a municipality that plans and manages growth responsibly, including the building, maintenance, and renewal of appropriate infrastructure*
- *Live in a municipality that attracts, retains and promotes productive and effective employees committed to their own on-going professional training and growth*
- *Live in a municipality that enhances the quality of life of its citizens by providing certain services beyond those mandated by law.*
- *Live in a municipality whose government communicates effectively with its citizens*

Every citizen has a responsibility to...

- *Acknowledge that municipal services are finite, to be shared fairly with fellow citizens*
- *Avoid behaviour that threatens the safety, health and wellness of fellow citizens or the integrity of the natural environment*
- *Acknowledge that our security and well-being is built on the willingness of each of us to seek the common good*
- *Acknowledge that the orderly growth of our city depends on proper planning, which requires citizen participation*
- *Acknowledge that the financial stability of our city and the services we expect it to provide depend in part on the taxes we pay, and that as a consequence new services and new infrastructure must be affordable*
- *Acknowledge that staff are professionals, and citizens as well; that they deserve to be treated as such; and that as skilled workers they are best retained by competitive salaries*
- *Remember that communication is a two-way street, and that voting is the most basic form of communication between citizens and their elected representatives.*