

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 21, 2005**

### **CITY OF VAUGHAN CITIZENS' CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

(Referred from the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of February 15, 2005)

Committee of the Whole (Working Session), at its meeting of February 15, 2005, recommended:

That this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 21, 2005.

Council, at its meeting of February 14, 2005, adopted the following:

That this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of February 15, 2005.

Report of Councillor Carella, dated February 7, 2005

#### **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

## Declaration of Citizens' Rights & Responsibilities

### *Every citizen has a right to...*

- *Live, work, and play in a municipality that promotes community safety, health, and wellness, while safeguarding the natural environment*
- *Live in a municipality in which all mandated services are delivered effectively and efficiently*
- *Live in a municipality in which citizens receive value for their property tax dollar*
- *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 services beyond those mandated by law.*
- *Live in a municipality whose government communicates effectively with its citizens*

### *Every citizen has a responsibility to...*

- *Avoid behaviour that threatens the safety, health and wellness of fellow citizens or the integrity of the natural environment*
- *Acknowledge that municipal services are finite, to be shared fairly with fellow citizens*
- *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 mutual affair, and that voting is the most basic form of communication between citizens and their elected representatives.*

*Written by Councillor Tony Carella, based on Vaughan Vision 2007  
Adopted by the Council of the City of Vaughan February 25, 2005*