

VAUGHAN COUNCIL'S CIVIC HERO AWARDS

(Added per Council direction of October 17, 2005)

Recommendation:

Further to the discussion of related matters which took place at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) of October 11, 2005, Councillor Carella and Councillor Shefman recommend adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Vaughan has adopted a *Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities*; and

WHEREAS the intent of such adoption is, *inter alia*, the promotion of responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS the promotion of such citizenship is accomplished in part by the honouring of individual citizens who, by virtue of their action or actions, provide an example to others;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Vaughan hereby establishes an awards program to honour those citizens of Vaughan, who, in the opinion of the Council, have set an outstanding example of responsible citizenship worthy of the special recognition. This recognition will take the form of the City of Vaughan's Civic Hero-Awards, the rules of which shall be as follows:

1. The award shall be a certificate to read as follows:

Council of the City of Vaughan
takes pride in naming
[individual's name]
Civic Hero
for his [or her] exemplary action
reflecting the responsibility of citizens to
"[appropriate quotation of one or more of the responsibilities cited
in the City of Vaughan's
Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities]"

2. The award will be granted to individuals as individuals, and not as a member of an organization whose *raison d'etre* is the carrying out of the action(s) for which the individual might be honoured, nor to any individual whose action(s) are other than voluntary.
3. The award may honour individuals for a one-time act, or for an on-going course of action(s), but no honouree shall receive this award more than once in his/her lifetime.
4. No more than five such awards will be made in any calendar year, and each shall be approved by Council.
5. The right to nominate potential recipients shall be vested in the ward councilors, with no councilor permitted to nominate more than one individual in a calendar year unless and until a prior nominee of that councilor is not approved by Council in the same calendar year.
6. In the event that the number of wards increases at some future date, the corresponding number of potential awardees shall increase by the same number.

7. Nominations may only be effected by a written recommendation to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session), which recommendation must contain a detailed justification for the nomination as well as a draft press release reflecting that justification as it will be provided to the public, along with the name of the member of council who nominated the honouree.
8. No councilor shall transfer his or her right to nominate a potential awardee to another councilor.

Economic Impact:

Minimal: limited to the cost to produce and appropriately frame the certificate.

Purpose:

To promote the goal of responsible citizenship as described in the City of Vaughan's *Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities*.

Background – Analysis and Options:

Council lacks a mechanism for honouring those individuals who, by virtue of their generally unheralded actions, set the sort of example of responsible citizenship which Council has chosen to publish by its adoption of the City of Vaughan's *Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities*. These actions might run the gamut from cleaning up litter on a local street to rescuing a child who has fallen into a swollen creek.

The Civic Hero Award is meant to honour and recognize the citizens of our city who show their care for their community and their fellow-citizens through their actions. As is clear from the details provided above, this program is extremely limited in terms of the number that might be honoured in any one year, which is entirely appropriate as the number of those who can genuinely be designated "hero" in a single year is very few. Given the limited maximum number of annual awardees (5), it is appropriate that the power to nominate be vested in a limited number of individuals --- the ward councilors.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007:

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

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council take steps to honour those who, by their actions as individual citizens unconnected to any organized activity, set an example of responsible citizenship as described in the City of Vaughan's *Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities*.

Attachments:

Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities
Extract - Item 2, Report No. 55 of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session)

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Councillor – Ward 2

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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 28, 2005*