

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DECEMBER 11, 2006

ANNUAL MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

Recommendation

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan holds its Annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony in celebration of Hanukkah on December 19, 2006 in the Civic Centre Lobby;

And that Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman and all interested members of Council act to sponsor this event;

And that community clergy be invited to lead the candle lighting ceremony;

And that Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman officiate the ceremony;

And that appropriate notification to the public be facilitated by Corporate Communications;

2. That the Menorah Lighting Ceremony take place on an annual basis on the appropriate date at the Civic Centre.

Economic Impact

Minimal – Light refreshments for those in attendance

Background – Analysis and Options

1. The City of Vaughan is a multicultural community that celebrates its diversity. At this time of year Council embraces the variety of celebrations that occur amongst its residents.
2. Following the initiative of former Councillor Susan Kadis, since 2002 the City of Vaughan has held a menorah lighting ceremony at the Civic Centre. This event, in part, recognizes and celebrates an important date in the calendar for the Jewish community in the City – one of the largest such populations in any municipality in Canada.
3. On November 28, and without prior notice or reason, Mayor Jackson's Executive Assistant emailed the City's Corporate Communications staff, asking them to inform clergy that: "Mayor Elect Linda Jackson has decided that we will not be having a Menorah Lighting at the Civic Centre this year."
4. This recommendation restores this important annual event.

Purpose

To restore the annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony at the Civic Centre and to establish the Menorah Lighting Ceremony as an annual event of the City of Vaughan.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

N/A

Attachments

none

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman