

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST –
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That February 2007 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 Ontario Black History Society and from the Co-Chair Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the President of the Ontario Black History Society, dated December 7, 2006, and from the Co-Chair Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association, dated December 18, 2006, is attached (Attachments #1 and #2).

In 2006 the City of Vaughan declared February 2006 as Black History Month following a request received from the Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association.

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy: “*That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters; which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act*”. *Ontario Black History Society is a registered charity.*

The Ontario Black History Society and the Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association have requested the City publicize this proclamation to acknowledge the contribution and value that citizens of African Caribbean Canadian descent make to the character of the city and to inform and empower all Canadians through the messages and activities of Black History Month. This year’s theme is inspired by the Abolition of Slavery Act in 1807. 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 2007 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 Ontario Black History Society,
dated December 7, 2006

Attachment #2 Correspondence from the Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association,
dated December 18, 2006

Report prepared by:

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk

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RECEIVED

DEC 11 2006

CLERK'S DEPT.



ONTARIO BLACK HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 1978

A Registered Canadian Charity dedicated to the study of Black History in Ontario

OBHS Kick-off of Black History Month 2007: Honouring the Past & Looking to the Future

December 7th, 2006

Mr. Michael Di Biase
Mayor
City of Vaughan
Via email: clerks@city.vaughan.on.ca

RE: February Black History Month Proclamation

The Ontario Black History Society respectfully requests a proclamation from your office, declaring February 2007 as **Black History Month**.

The Ontario Black History Society is proud of the partnerships we have formed with you and other committed Canadians to champion the process of informing and empowering all Canadians through the messages and activities of Black History Month.

Our annual brunch that is the official kick-off for Black History Month 2007, will take place on Sunday, January 28th 2007 in The Dominion Ballroom at the Toronto Sheraton Centre. We invite you to submit your proclamation to us by January 5th 2007. Your message will be included in the event programme book that is circulated widely to businesses, organizations and schools across Canada.

Our theme for this year is inspired by the Abolition of Slavery Act in 1807. This act was the start of a successful process that outlawed the African slave trade worldwide. After centuries of suffering, millions of African slaves were eventually freed and millions of lives saved. This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the struggles of the past, the progress we have made and also the challenges that remain.

We look forward to your participation as we commemorate this most important bicentenary.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Sadlier
President

OBHS Website: www.blackhistorysociety.ca

OBHS Archival Collection: www.collections.ic.gc.ca/OBHO

The OBHS appreciates the support provided by the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

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Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association


The City of Vaughan
 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
 Vaughan, Ontario
 L6A 1T1

December 18, 2006

Attention: Sybil Fernandes, Deputy City Clerk

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DEC 18 2006

Re: **Black History Month, February 2007**

CLERK'S DEPT.

Ms. Fernandes,

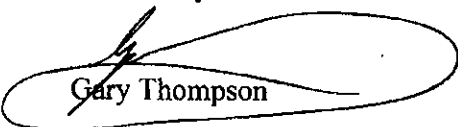
The Thornhill, African, Caribbean and Canadian Association would like to request that the City of Vaughan, declare February 2006, Black History Month.

We believe that it is very important that we as a city take time to acknowledge the contribution and value that citizens of African Caribbean Canadian descent make to the character of our city.

The achievements, struggles and tenacity of our people are chronicled in a rich history which, in our opinion serves as an excellent reference of consciousness, pride and education for our community and the city as a whole.

It is our hope that members of Council and the citizens of Vaughan will take time out to join the various celebrations taking place across the region.

Yours truly



Gary Thompson

Co-Chair Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association.

