

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 19, 2007

ROBERT BERTOLAS “HOMECOMING”

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that the City of Vaughan invite Robert Bertolas, to a “homecoming” ceremony and presentation of a certificate of congratulations on the completion of his *Victory Tour for MS 2007*, immediately prior to the meeting of the Committee of the Whole of December 3, 2007

Economic Impact

Nil

Communication Plan

The Corporate Communications Department will prepare a plan, part of which will include the opportunity for Mr Bertolas to meet the media immediately after the ceremony/presentation.

Purpose

To draw attention to the successful conclusion of Robert Bertolas’s Generex/Jaymor Victory Tour for MS 2007

Background - Analysis and Options

Vaughan resident Robert Bertolas suffers from multiple sclerosis (MS), and in an effort to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for the disease he resolved to run, bicycle, and rollerblade across Canada---over 10,000 kilometers, from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John’s, Newfoundland---beginning on March 3 of this year. He expects to finish his journey by November 25, and to be back in Vaughan by the first few days in December.

This recommendation contemplates Robert being welcomed officially by the Mayor and Members of Council at a “homecoming” ceremony held in Council chambers immediately prior to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 3, 2007. At this time, Council would present Robert with a certificate of congratulations on the “victory” he has achieved over his own condition, and in terms of raising awareness and funds needed to find a cure for multiple sclerosis. He would then have an opportunity to meet with the media.

The publicity which will accompany this event will afford Robert the opportunity to appeal for donations to defray the expenses incurred in the very last leg of his tour. While it is beyond the capacity of the City to contribute public money to this cause, Council can assist in providing Robert with an opportunity to make such an appeal.

Regional Implications

None

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

A local resident has made a name for himself as a champion for those who, like himself, suffer from MS. The City of Vaughan should be the first to congratulate him on his admirable accomplishment

Attachments

Nil

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2