

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MARCH 3, 2008

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO PRIVATE LEGISLATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAXATION - REQUEST FOR COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Recommendation

Mayor Jackson recommends:

That the request from the UJA Federation be referred to staff for a report.

Economic Impact

The impact will be addressed in the staff report.

Communications Plan

The UJA Federation will be notified of the date the staff report will be on Committee of the Whole.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction for a staff report following the request from the UJA Federation.

Background - Analysis and Options

Mayor Jackson was approached by the UJA Federation asking that the City of Vaughan Council pass a resolution in support of a Private Members Bill to exempt from property taxation the property owned and currently being developed by the UJA Federation.

The property in question is known as the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus and is approximately 50 acres in size, located on the west side of Bathurst Street, north of Rutherford Road.

The UJA Federation is a charitable corporation and a philanthropic organization. It is supported by a combination of donations and public funds. The UJA Federation supports community service-type organizations as well as education, health and social services.

The Campus on Bathurst Street will be providing a range of significant community facilities and services to the general public. Currently, the majority of the property is still under construction, but the intention is to complete the development with schools, medical service facilities, immigrant aid services, supportive housing for physically and developmentally challenged, family and child services, assisted living, senior housing, pools, gymnasias, community centres, and other community meeting places. Also included in the plans is an ecological garden to serve educational and therapeutic purposes supporting environmental initiatives.

Current Ontario legislation does not permit the City to grant a site-specific exemption which is the reason the UJA is looking to the Ontario Legislature to enact a private member's bill. The UJA must obtain an indication of support for this initiative from the municipality that will be impacted.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Regional Implications

The Regional impact will be addressed in the staff report. The UJA Federation will also be directly contacting the Region in order to gain their support.

Conclusion

It is appropriate that the request be referred to staff and that a report be prepared for Council.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

Ann Coletta, Office of the Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Jackson
Mayor