

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MARCH 25, 2008**

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST** **CHILD FIND ONTARIO – GREEN RIBBON OF HOPE MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

The Deputy City Clerk in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/City Solicitor recommends:

- 1) That May 2008 be proclaimed as “**The Child Find Ontario – Green Ribbon of Hope Month**”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

#### **Economic Impact**

N/A

#### **Communications Plan**

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 the space availability.

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Associate Executive Director of Child Find Ontario, dated February 8, 2008.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Child Find Ontario is a charitable children’s organization whose mandate is to assist parents and law enforcement agencies search for missing children and teenagers and to educate children and adults about safe guarding their children The Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign helps bring the message of missing children to the forefront.

The proclamation request meets the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”

#### **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**

N/A

### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending May 2008 be proclaimed as “**Child Find Ontario – Green Ribbon of Hope Month**” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Correspondence received from the Associate Executive Director of Child Find Ontario

### **Report prepared by:**

Sybil Fernandes, Deputy City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

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Sybil Fernandes  
Deputy City Clerk

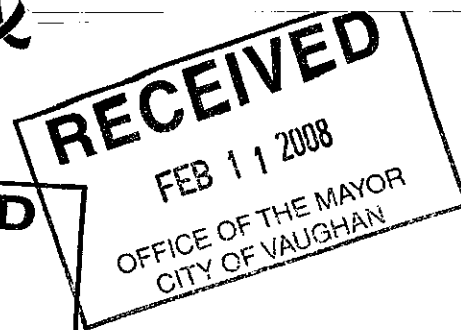
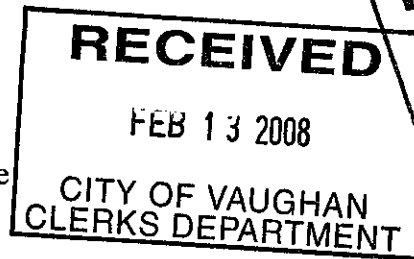
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Janice Atwood-Petkovski  
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative  
Services/City Solicitor



February 8, 2008

Mayor Linda D. Jackson  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1



Honorable Mayor Linda D. Jackson,

The Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign is aimed at bringing awareness to the community regarding the issue of missing children and how one can safeguard their child from predators, on-line or in the streets, which seek to harm their love ones. In the year 2006, **60,461 cases of missing children** were reported to the RCMP National Missing Children Services, of which **20,874** were recorded here in the Province of Ontario alone.

This year marks the Child Find Ontario's 17<sup>th</sup> **Annual Green Ribbon of Hope™ Campaign** during the month of May. We are seeking the support of you and your council members to assist us in bringing this message to your constituency and supporting our Annual Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign during the month of May, including National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The concept of the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign was developed by the students of Holy Cross Secondary School in St. Catharines and is a result of the abduction and subsequent murder of 15-year-old Kristen French on April 16, 1992. The Green Ribbon is now a symbol of recognition for the many children who go missing every year. The colour green embodies a sign of hope for those children who have gone missing.

Child Find Ontario Inc. is a registered non-profit, charitable children's organization whose mandate is to assist searching parents and law enforcement agencies in the search for missing children and teenagers and to educate children and adults about safe guarding their children from the unthinkable. Since 1984, we have been working for the safe return of missing children and educating families and communities about child safety.

Child Find Ontario Community Link volunteers continue to reach the children and families in your community and supply them with our educational programs and services, enlightening them with all important safety rules.

In honor of all searching parents we would ask that your leadership play a key role in promoting the safe return of all missing children by granting this issue the support of your office and elected colleagues during our Annual Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign. Enclosed are sample proclamations for the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign and National Missing Children's Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, for which we encourage you to recognize and lend your support. We would also be pleased to provide you free of charge

**Provincial Head Office**

440A Britannia Rd. E. Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4Z 1X9

Tel: 905-712-3463 Fax: 905-712-3462 Toll Free: 1-800-KID-TIPS (543-8477)

National Toll Free: 1-800-387-7962 • E-mail: [mail@childfindontario.ca](mailto:mail@childfindontario.ca) • [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca)



Green Ribbons to wear and fliers to post during the month of May in support of the safe return of all missing children. Just complete the attached order form and fax it back to me at (905) 712-3462.

On behalf of the families whose children are missing, Child Find Ontario would appreciate the support of your office during the month of May to help bring the message of missing children to the forefront. For further information on Child Find Ontario or the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign, please visit our website at [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca) or contact us at 1- 866-KID-TIPS (543-8477) or email me at [john@childfindontario.ca](mailto:john@childfindontario.ca). Our Provincial Office mailing address is 440A Britannia Road East, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 1X9

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Durant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "John" and "Durant" being capitalized and prominent.

John Durant  
Associate Executive Director

**Provincial Head Office**

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## *Proclamation*

### *Green Ribbon of Hope Month*

- WHEREAS** over 60,000 children were reported missing last year in Canada and thousands more are the victims of exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** children and families in Ontario are victims of this tragedy; and
- WHEREAS** increased awareness of the problem is needed to help reduce the incidence of missing children and teenagers, as well as to help locate missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this a community issue, not just a family one; and
- WHEREAS** a Missing Child is Everyone's Responsibility; and
- WHEREAS** this month is set aside to rekindle new hope in the search for all missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this month also supports National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN THAT I,**

do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2008** as

**MISSING CHILDREN'S MONTH IN [MUNICIPALITY]**

and join Child Find Ontario and all law enforcement agencies in urging citizens in Ontario to remain vigilant in our common desire to protect and nurture the youth of Ontario.



## *Proclamation*

### *National Missing Children's Day May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008*

- WHEREAS** over 60,000 children were reported missing last year in Canada and thousands more are the victims of exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** children and families in Ontario are victims of this tragedy; and
- WHEREAS** increased awareness of the problem is needed to help reduce the incidence of missing children and teenagers, as well as to help locate missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this a community issue, not just a family one; and
- WHEREAS** remember that "Some things can't be replaced"; and
- WHEREAS** this month is set aside to rekindle new hope in the search for all missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this month also supports National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN THAT I,**

**DO HEREBY PROCLAIM that May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 is National  
Missing Children's Day**

**MISSING CHILDREN'S MONTH IN [MUNICIPALITY]**

and join Child Find Ontario and all law enforcement agencies in urging citizens in Ontario to remain vigilant in our common desire to protect and nurture the youth of Ontario.