

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 2, 2008**

### **REQUEST TO ERECT A TEMPORARY BANNER ON CENTRE STREET**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that Council provide direction with respect to the request by the Thornhill Village Festival to install a temporary banner across Centre Street, just east of Atkinson Avenue.

#### **Economic Impact**

All costs for the installation and removal of the banner and supporting structures would be born by the Thornhill Village Festival organizers.

#### **Communications Plan**

The banner would advertise the Thornhill Village Festival, and would be located in the community.

No additional communications by the City are required.

#### **Purpose**

To consider a request from the Thornhill Village Festival to install a temporary banner and structure across Centre Street to advertise the festival.

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

City staff have been approached by the Thornhill Village Festival organizers seeking permission to erect a temporary banner across Centre Street, just east of Atkinson Avenue.

By-law 178-2003 does not allow for the placement of banners on or above City streets. However, Council did agree to a similar request made by the Ahmadiyya community in July of 2004, subject to certain conditions being met.

In discussions with the City's Manager of Special Projects/Licensing & Permits regarding the liability that such banners can represent to the City, there are ways that the City can protect itself should Council agree to the placement of such a banner. This would include having the sign installation contractor name the City as an additional insured on the policy, and that this policy be in effect for the entire time such a banner would be in place, including the time for set up and removal of this banner.

Should Council see merit in the request by the Thornhill Village Festival to erect such a banner across Centre Street, it is recommended that:

1. The erection of the temporary banner, and/or supporting structures, be in accordance with, and under the supervision of, a Professional Engineer registered in the Province of Ontario.
2. The sign and supporting structure be removed immediately following the event.
3. Insurance coverage of not less than \$2 million be provided by the sign installation contractor, naming the City as an additional insured on the policy, be in place for the entire time the structure is in place, including the time necessary for the erection and dismantling the structure.

4. An exemption to By-law 178-2003 be granted to the Thornhill Village Festival for the period of September 8, 2008 to September 23, 2008.
5. Any restoration work that is necessary to public property be completed at the proponent's cost.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

Should Council wish to permit the erection of a banner across Centre Street it would be a change from the priorities previously set by Council.

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

If Council sees merit in the request by the Thornhill Village Festival organizers to install a temporary banner across Centre Street, the above conditions and by-law exemption would need to be approved.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report prepared by:**

Brian T. Anthony

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S,C. Tech  
Director of Public Works