

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MARCH 31, 2009

PROCLAMATION REQUEST: ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Recommendation

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That May 2009 be proclaimed as "Asian Heritage Month" in the City of Vaughan; and
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website.

Economic Impact

None.

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 space availability. Corporate Communications will issue a news release in support of the proclamation.

Purpose

To respond to requests from the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario, the Vaughan Chinese Seniors Association and the Vaughan Chinese Business Association.

Background - Analysis and Options

Attached is correspondence from the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario, the Vaughan Chinese Seniors Association, and the Vaughan Chinese Business Association requesting that May 2009 be declared as Asian Heritage Month.

The month of May was officially declared as Asian Heritage Month by the Canadian Senate in December of 2001 and has since been celebrated every May since 2002. Asian Heritage Month offers all Canadians an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Asian Canadians and to develop harmony among the many ethno cultural groups that make up York Region. Numerous events will be taking place throughout York Region during the month of May in celebration of Asian Heritage Month.

The organizations requesting the proclamation do not meet the City's Proclamation Policy, in that the organizations are not registered charities with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, however, the City has proclaimed this proclamation numerous times in the past.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

Preserve our Heritage and Support Diversity, Arts and Culture.

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

Councillor Racco is recommending that May 2009 be proclaimed as “Asian Heritage Month” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that a news release be issued regarding the proclamation.

Attachments

1. Letter of request from the Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario
2. Letter of request from the Vaughan Chinese Seniors Association
3. Letter of request from the Vaughan Chinese Business Association

Report prepared by:

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Concord/Thornhill



**Canadian Multicultural Council
Asians in Ontario**

6 Garamond Court, Don Mills, ON. M3C 1Z5
email: info@cmcasians.com
www.cmcasians.com

Nov. 19, 2008

Councillor Sandra Yeung-Racco
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON. L6A 1T1

Subject: May 2009 – Asian Heritage Month

Dear Councillor Racco:

The Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Ontario would be honoured if the City of Vaughan would declare the month of May 2009 as Asian Heritage Month. We would fully support your initiative to request Council to proclaim the month of May as Asian Heritage Month for the City of Vaughan.

The month of May has been officially declared Asian Heritage Month by the Canadian Senate in Dec. 2001. It has been celebrated throughout Canada since May 2002. This occasion offers all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about the history, culture and heritage of Asian Canadians, as well as to celebrate their role and contribution to the growth, prosperity and history of Canada.

The Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Ontario is proud to be involved with Asian Heritage Month celebrations. Our 20 member organizations, representing 16 different regions and cultures of Asia, will be organizing a series of events and festivities to celebrate this occasion. We would like to invite the City of Vaughan to be a part of it through the Proclamation.

Yours truly,

Joseph A. Chen
President

First Chinese Senior Association of Vaughan

Dufferin Clark Community Centre, Concord, Ontario L4J 7R4

Tel: 905-832-8554 ext. 4251

Email: vaughanchinese@gmail.com

March 18, 2009

Councillor Sandra Yeung-Racco
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, On. L6A 1T1

Dear Councillor Racco

Subject: Asian Heritage Month on May 2009

In response to the great success of Canadian Multicultural Council for the Asian Heritage Month Celebration being held in the City of Toronto, on behalf of the First Chinese Senior Association of Vaughan, we would, with your support, request the council to declare the month of May as the Asian Heritage month for our City of Vaughan. This would greatly enhance the diversification character of our beautiful city.

Yours truly,



Dominic Lee
President
FCSAV



March 26, 2009

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON, L6A 1T1

Dear Councillor Racco:

RE: Proclamation for Asian Heritage Month

The Vaughan Chinese Business Association would like to formally request that the City of Vaughan declare the month of May 2009 as Asian Heritage Month.

The month of May has officially been celebrated as Asian Heritage Month across Canada since May of 2002. The celebrations that occur during the month of May allow all Canadians to learn more about the history, culture and heritage of Asian Canadians, and the Vaughan Chinese Business Association is proud to be involved in many celebratory events throughout the month.

Our organization requests that the City of Vaughan formally take part in celebrating Asian Heritage Month through an official proclamation during the month of May.

I thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Will Sung
President, Vaughan Chinese Business Association