

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 2, 2009

MAYOR'S TRAVEL TO ITALY TO PURSUE BUSINESS AND FRIENDSHIP INTERESTS

Recommendation

Mayor Linda D. Jackson recommends:

1. THAT the information in this report be approved by Council.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not Applicable.

Economic Impact

All costs associated with ground transportation, accommodation, meals and other incidentals were incurred by the City of Policoro. The only cost incurred by the Mayor's Operating Budget was for airfare.

Communications Plan

A Media Release was distributed to all media outlets by the Corporate Communications Dept. on May 15th, 2009.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback and approval in relation to the Mayor's travel to Italy.

Background - Analysis and Options

An invitation was received by the Mayor of Policoro, Nicola Lopatriello, inviting the Mayor and all Members of Council. The invitation was distributed to all Members of Council.

Mayor Linda D. Jackson travelled to Italy from May 15th – 20th, to visit the City of Policoro. The purpose of the trip was to meet with municipal and business leaders. In addition, the Mayor participated in a ceremony to inaugurate a piazza in the name of a former Vaughan resident. The inauguration was to acknowledge "Piazza Francesco Lofranco", which was named after the father of Cavaliere Rocco Lofranco.

During the visit, Mayor Jackson met with the Mayor and Members of Council of the City of Policoro, together with other business leaders throughout the Basilicata region of Italy. In addition, the Mayor met with representatives of Agri-Foods, an industry which is a major contributor to the economy.

The Mayor of Policoro expressed an interest in developing a Friendship Agreement with the City of Vaughan. In addition, discussions occurred with respect to the facilitation of importing and exporting products from the Basilicata Region to Canada. The Mayor of Policoro will be visiting Canada in the near future to facilitate a Trade Show in Vaughan, which will promote the Basilicata region.

It is the role of the Mayor to participate in and foster activities, which enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and the residents. Unfortunately, due to time constraints a report to Council was not possible prior to the Mayor's travel. The details of the trip were finalized only a few days prior to departure.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

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

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The trip to Policoro was a positive relationship-building exercise which allowed the opportunity for economic, cultural and social exchanges between the two cities. The establishment of a formal relationship will have to be approved by Council.

Attachments

1. Invitation to Mayor and Members of Council from the Mayor of Policoro.

Report prepared by:

Ann Coletta, Office of the Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Jackson
Mayor



CITTÀ DI POLICORO

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UFFICIO DEL SINDACO

Prot. n° 11299

del 28.04.2009

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

Dear Madame Mayor,

on May 17, 2009, in the City of Policoro in Italy, there will be a historical commemorative event acknowledging the accomplishments of a past Vaughan citizen. In fact, we will inaugurate "Piazza Francesco Lofranco", father of Cav. Rocco Lofranco, a Woodbridge resident.

Please accept our invitation to attend this very special ceremony on May 17, along with some members of city Council, in the city of Policoro.

We ask that you kindly confirm your attendance on or before May 4, 2009.

I look forward to your response.

Policoro, lì 28.04.2009

**Nicola Lopatriello
Mayor, Policoro**