

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 1, 2010**

### **SAFE CITY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006 – 2010 TERM**

#### **Recommendation**

The Safe City Committee recommends:

That the following report be received.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact.

#### **Communications Plan**

N/A

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the accomplishments of the Safe City Committee for the 2006 – 2010 term.

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

The City of Vaughan Safe City Committee promotes an understanding and awareness on community vandalism in the City. It functions as a forum to enhance the responsiveness of the City to the diverse needs of all its residents.

Council approved that all non-statutory committees submit a summary of its accomplishments prior to the expiry of the term. The attached contains a summary of the Safe City Committee's accomplishments for the 2006-2010 term.

#### **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**

N/A

#### **Conclusion**

The Safe City Committee's accomplishments for the 2006-2010 term are attached for Council's information.

**Attachments**

- 1) Safe City Committee Accomplishments – 2006-2010 Term

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie Di Vona  
Chair  
Safe City Committee

## **Safe City Committee Accomplishments 2006-2010 Term**

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### **Park Ambassador**

The Safe City Committee implemented, and oversees the Park Ambassador Program. Community volunteers walk through their neighbourhood parks and alert Police and the City's Enforcement Services of acts of vandalism, unruly behavior and damage to park playgrounds and equipment. Volunteers act as goodwill ambassadors for the city by providing information to residents about city sponsored events and services.

### **Road Watch**

The Safe City Committee established the Road Watch Program in Vaughan in partnership with the City of Vaughan, York Region Police, Ministry of Transportation, Regional Municipality of York and area businesses. The program gives residents an opportunity to report aggressive and unsafe driving to the police through the use of citizen report forms. In order to facilitate community complaints, a new centralized automated system has been established by contacting yrp.ca. As a result, Road Watch signs will have a tagline added to inform motorists of this update.

### **City Watch**

The Safe City Committee, in partnership with the City of Vaughan, established the City Watch program, which gives City of Vaughan employees an opportunity to report unsafe driving through the use of Road Watch forms. City Watch adds a new dimension to civil service as City of Vaughan employees throughout the City report acts of unsafe driving as a means to enhance education and awareness of unsafe drivers.

### **Safe City Survey**

The Safe City Committee developed a survey and study to determine residents' perception and attitude regarding community safety in the City of Vaughan. The survey was distributed through various sources, and was also available to residents on the City's website. Responses to the survey were collected and a report published with the results. The survey report was presented to Council, provided to various community groups, and is available on the City's website.

### **Positive Ticket Program**

The Safe City Committee in partnership with York Regional Police launched the "Positive Ticket Program: which rewards citizens with "tickets" for good behaviour and positive deeds. Citizens who perform acts of goodness are given a ticket along with a coupon valid at a local eatery.

### **Council Endorsement of the Community Workplace Health and Safety Charter**

The Safe City Committee submitted a report to council providing information on the Municipal Community Workplace and Safety Charter and requesting that the City of Vaughan endorse the principles of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's (WSIB) Charter. The goal of the Charter launched by WSIB is for municipalities to make a public commitment to actively participate in eliminating workplace incidents in their communities.

**Safe City Committee**  
**Accomplishments 2006-2010 Term**

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**Mandatory Installation of Automated External Defibrillators**

The Safe City Committee promoted the mandatory installation of AED's within City-owned public facilities and a resolution was forwarded to the Province of Ontario requesting Province-wide legislation and regulation on the mandatory installation of AED's in public buildings.

**From The Heart Campaign**

The Safe City Committee launched the From the Heart Campaign, which is focused on advancing public education and awareness of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) through true life stories, and how these devices can help save lives. Residents can send a story on how an AED saved a life to the Safe City Committee. It will be posted to the Safe City Committee website and sent to the all members of parliament in an on-going effort to implement Province-wide legislation and regulation.

**"ERASE GRAFFITI" – Vaughan's Anti-Graffiti Approach**

The Safe City Committee is part of the on-going campaign to erase graffiti in the City of Vaughan. The campaign program includes a public education program and an anti-graffiti by-law. The Safe City Committee recommended to council that in 2010, a Graffiti Summit be held jointly with area municipalities and a graffiti clean-up day be held in the City of Vaughan

**Request for a Full-Time Safety and Security Coordinator**

The Safe City Committee recommended to council that a Safety and Security Coordinator be hired to support the work of the Safe City Committee in promoting safety and security by focusing on education, prevention and community participation.

**Safety Forum**

The Safe City Committee organizes a yearly safety forum with special focus on community safety. The previous forum was held at Vaughan Mills Mall and coincided with Safety Week. The forum addresses a variety of safety topics and provides information and awareness to the public on various safety awareness issues.

**Life Saving Stations**

The Safe City Committee recommended the installation of Life Saving Stations as a new standard for safety in Storm Water Management Ponds. SWM ponds currently incorporate safety design features such as fencing, strategically placed vegetation and signage; Notwithstanding these safety design features, there is still a potential risk that a person may stray into the pool and may need assisted extraction. Additionally, the Safe City Committee recommended a regular inspection of all installed Life Saving Stations.

*March 31, 2008 Item 18, Report No. 13*

**Countdown Signalized Intersections**

The Safe City Committee recommended the City of Vaughan request the Region of York to consider the introduction of pedestrian countdown signals as a pilot project at City of Vaughan intersections, where high volumes of pedestrian traffic was expected.

*February 25, 2008 Item 1, Report No. 9*

## **Safe City Committee Accomplishments 2006-2010 Term**

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### **Community Centre Safety Policy**

In an effort to foster and promote safety, respect and civility, the City of Vaughan, with assistance from the Safe City Committee developed a new policy for users of city-operated community centre facilities. City of Vaughan Staff was also given additional tools in how to deal with incidents of harassment, violence, abuse or vandalism in city-operated community centre facilities.

*October 31, 2005, Item 3, Report No.60*

### **Safe Trails Program**

The Safe Trails program involves the City of Vaughan Enforcement Services patrolling open spaces and trails, either on bike or motorcycle, to ensure the safety of Vaughan residents. The Safe City Committee, partnering with City of Vaughan Enforcement services and a corporate sponsor, provided on a trial basis, two motorcycles to assist with the patrolling of our parks, trails and open spaces.

### **Speed Message Boards**

The Safe City Committee recommended the use of Speed Message Boards to remind motorists to drive safely and within the legally posted speed limit, especially in residential neighbourhoods. The aim of the Message Radar Boards is to change driver attitudes and practices in residential area. York Regional police will review the findings and consider whether any further enforcement action to be taken.

### **Helmet Safety**

Ward 4 Councilor Sandra Yeung Racco, co-chair of the Safe City Committee and Regional Councilor Mario Ferri created the Recreational Sports Safety Task Force (RSSTF), whose mandate is to develop an education program aimed at safety and injury prevention in recreational sports and activities. The RSSTF launched a public awareness campaign in the City of Vaughan in January 2009 called *Helmets Save Lives* to help reduce unsafe sports practices. During the summer of 2009 an Advisory Committee to the Task Force began working on identifying safe tobogganing/snowboarding hills in the City of Vaughan that would meet accepted safety standards and procedures for signage, inspection and maintenance. The City's first designated toboggan hill, located at Uplands Golf and Ski Club, was launched in October of 2009.

### **Dog Resuscitators**

The Safe City Committee assisted in obtaining 15 pet shaped dog resuscitators for use by the fire department during fires. Regular human oxygen masks don't always fit on a pet's face, adding a device that will fit on anything from a dog to even a snake assists the Fire Department in delivering additional services to impacted residents