

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

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST** **SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June 2010 be proclaimed as “Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

#### **Economic Impact**

N/A

#### **Communications Plan**

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under “Events – Proclamations” and on the City Page Online.

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Executive Director of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario.

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

The correspondence received from the Executive Director of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario, dated May 12, 2010, is attached. (Attachment 1)

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”. The Canadian Cancer Society is a registered charity”.

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario has been delivering programs and services for 37 years which improve the quality of life of children, youth and adults with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus through research, awareness, care and advocacy. This proclamation will assist the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario to raise awareness of these life long complex conditions through their education campaigns.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that June 2010 be proclaimed as "Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Correspondence from the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario, dated May 12, 2010

**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk

May 12, 2010

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

Dear Mayor Jackson,

We are requesting the City of Vaughan to consider proclaiming June, **Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month**, in your region to help raise awareness of these life long, complex conditions. Enclosed please find a sample proclamation for your convenience.

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario (SB&H), a registered charitable organization is proud of its 37 year history of delivering programs and services that improve the quality of life of children, youth and adults with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus through research, awareness, care and advocacy.

We are working to inform the public through our education campaigns.

**Folic Acid It's Never Too Early**, an important message for all women of child bearing age and women in high risk groups. SB&H promotes the benefits of folic acid in reducing the incidence of neural tube defects, such as spina bifida, by as much as 70%.

**Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH)** a neurological condition that affects adults 55 and older. This little known form of hydrocephalus is often misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's Disease. When NPH is detected early symptoms may be partially or fully reversed.

Thank you for considering this year's request.

Sincerely,



Joan Booth  
Executive Director

Encl.

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