

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – APRIL 12, 2011

PROCLAMATION REQUEST PRIDE WEEK

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June 5th through June 12th, 2011 be proclaimed as "Pride Week";
- 2) That the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and
- 3) 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, Family Services York Region, Committee Chair, York Pride Fest and Committee Co-Chair, York Pride Fest.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the Executive Director, Family Services York Region, Committee Chair, York Pride Fest and Committee Co-Chair, York Pride Fest, dated March 3, 2011, 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 York PRIDE FEST Committee is a group of volunteers who organize York Region's Pride Week celebrations and this year marks the 11th anniversary. The proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The York PRIDE FEST Committee also requests that during Pride Week 2011 the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan. City Council has granted this request in the past.

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

This proclamation will bring awareness of differences and protection of equality within the Region.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that June 5th through 12th, 2011 be proclaimed as "Pride Week" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Correspondence received from the Executive Director, Family Services York Region, Committee Chair, York Pride Fest and Committee Co-Chair, York Pride, dated March 3, 2011

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

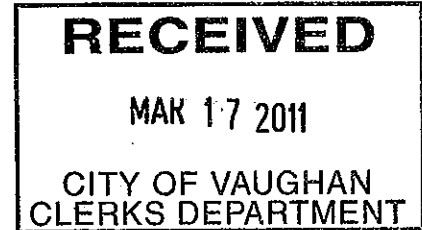
Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



March 3rd, 2011

Mr. Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk,
City Of Vaughan,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1



RE: York Region PRIDE Week – June 5-12, 2011

Dear Mr. Abrams,

On behalf of the York Region PRIDE Committee, we are writing to request your participation in PRIDE Week 2011.

The YORK PRIDE FEST Committee is a group of volunteer leaders who assemble each year to organize York Region's Pride Week celebrations. This year marks the eleventh anniversary of Pride Week celebrations in York Region. On behalf of the YORK PRIDE FEST Committee, we are requesting participation and leadership from the City Of Vaughan through the Proclamation of PRIDE WEEK June 5th to June 12th, 2011. This Proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region.

To increase awareness, over the past two years it has been one of our goals to organize the flying of the Rainbow Flag across the region during Pride Week. Previously, this had occurred in York Region only once in 2002, even though many neighbouring towns outside York Region have regularly raised this flag on civic flagpoles during their own pride weeks. In response to our requests in 2009 and 2010, we were delighted and thankful to the city of Vaughan and towns of Aurora, Georgina, Markham and Newmarket, for flying the Rainbow Flag in their municipalities during Pride Week. We request that during Pride Week 2011 the Rainbow Flag be raised in the City Of Vaughan, in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. If needed, we would be delighted to provide a flag of a size to meet your preference.

Please visit the York Region PRIDE FEST website at www.yorkpridefest.com for up-to-date information about events scheduled throughout Pride Week. Also feel free to contact Barbara Urman at 905-780-9927 ext. 225 or burman@fsyr.ca.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to welcoming you to some of the exciting activities happening throughout York Region during Pride Week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elisha Laker'.

Elisha Laker, MSW,RSW
Executive Director,
Family Services York Region

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Taggart'.

Mike Taggart
Committee Chair,
York Pride Fest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Urman'.

Barbara Urman, MSW,RSW
Committee Co-Chair,
York Pride Fest