

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 15, 2012

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

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June 2012 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 2, 2012 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 39 years that 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. Council have granted this proclamation 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

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that June 2012 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 Executive Director, of the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario, received May 2, 2012

Report prepared by

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



April 30, 2012

Mayor Mauizio Belivacqua
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor Belivacqua,

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 39 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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MAY 1 - 2012

CLERK'S DEPT.

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS*** the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario serves people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, their families and the public; and
- WHEREAS*** Health Canada has proclaimed June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month; and
- WHEREAS*** there are many people who are not aware of the Association or that it offers support, information and education programs and funds research to find ways to prevent and treat these conditions; and
- WHEREAS*** the Association encourages all Ontarians to learn more about these conditions and to appreciate the challenges faced by individuals affected by them, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

That the _____ hereby proclaims the month of June to be

SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH

in the _____ and I urge all citizens to give full consideration and attention to the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario for their work on behalf of those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families.

Signature

Date