

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer and the Director of Budgeting and Financial Planning recommend:

That the following report and formal presentation on the receipt of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the City's 2011 Budget be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award encourages governments to prepare and issue budget documents of the highest quality. This is essential for our citizenry to be fully informed of the City's policies, corporate initiatives, and financial plans. Better budget documents also contribute to better decision making and enhanced accountability.

Vaughan has always taken the management and stewardship of public funds very seriously and continues to demonstrate financial leadership and discipline, ensuring residents receive value for their tax dollars. Obtaining the 2011 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is another example of Vaughan's pursuit of organizational excellence and the dedication of staff associated with its publication, (i.e. Budgeting, Financial Services, Corporate Communication and City Departments).

Economic Impact

Not applicable - There are no direct financial implications

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Finance and Administration Committee of the receipt of GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the City's 2011 Budget. This is Vaughan's third consecutive year receiving this prestigious award.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit international professional association serving more than 17,400 government finance professionals throughout North America. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management.

The GFOA has a very strong Canadian presence, which is demonstrated by Canadians holding the Executive Board positions, including past GFOA President, Mr. Len Brittain, Director of Corporate Finance, City of Toronto. There are also a number of other Canadian representatives serving on many GFOA policy committees, which include:

Eric Sawyer, Chief Financial Officer City of Calgary, Alberta, ***Catherine Brubacher***, City Treasurer, City of Brantford, Ontario ***Trevor Bingler***, Director of Municipal Finance Policy Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, ***Ed Hankins***, Director of Policy, Risk and Treasury for the Regional Municipality of York, ***Ronald Kaufman***, Deputy CAO/Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer, Town of Caledon, ON.

The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award Program has been promoting the preparation of high quality budget documents for more than 28 years. Currently, more than 1,350 governments of all levels across North America have received this award, including Canadian cities such as, Calgary, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Burlington, Mississauga, Oakville, etc. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

City of Vaughan receives the GFOA Budget Award

The Government of Financial Officers Association presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Vaughan, Ontario for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2011. The award represents a significant achievement by the City of Vaughan, as it reflects the commitment of the municipality and staff to meet the highest principles of Government budgeting. In order to receive this budget award, the City of Vaughan had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The 2011 budget document was rated by 3 independent reviewers on 27 criteria, covering 4 categories. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget document serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operational guide
- A communications device

Having successfully achieved this goal, the City and the Budgeting and Financial Planning Department have received certificates of recognition. Copies of these are enclosed as an attachment.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Obtaining the 2011 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is another example of Vaughan's dedication to the pursuit of organizational excellence.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program actively strives to assist organizations achieve the goal of improving their budget document. As a program participant City Finance staff benefit from access to a wealth of financial guidance and independent budget document review. This is extremely helpful and aides the City in its pursuit of developing a better budget document, which contributes to better decision making and enhanced accountability.

The City of Vaughan Budgeting and Financial Planning Department, Financial Services Department and Corporate Communications Department are extremely proud to receive the City's third consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for its 2011 Budget.

Attachments

Attachment 1: 2011 Certificate of Recognition & Budget Award

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Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Cribbett, CMA
Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer

John Henry, CMA
Director of Budgeting & Financial Planning



The Government Finance Officers Association
of the United States and Canada

presents this

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

to

**Budgeting and Financial Reporting
City of Vaughan, Ontario**



The Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to those individuals who have been instrumental in their government unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest award in governmental budgeting, is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards.

Executive Director

Date **March 07, 2012**



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**City of Vaughan
Ontario**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

January 1, 2011

Linda C. Davidson Jeffrey R. Enos

President

Executive Director