

COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That October 2011 be proclaimed as “Autism Awareness Month” in the City of Vaughan; 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 Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario – York Region Chapter, dated September 15, 2011, is attached. (Attachment 1) This request was received too late to be placed on the last Committee of the Whole meeting Agenda. Due to the time-sensitivity of the proclamation request to proclaim October as Autism Awareness Month, we respectfully request that Council ratify the action taken.

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”

Autism Ontario was established in 1973 and has been providing support to many families across York Region and Ontario to help them cope with this devastating disorder. They are a leading source of information and referral on autism and their mandate is to ensure that each individual with autism is provided the means to achieve a better quality of life in the community. The proclamation would raise awareness as well as much needed support.

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 report supports the promotion of awareness throughout the Region about autism.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that October 2011 be proclaimed as "Autism Awareness Month" in the City of Vaughan, and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and on the City Page Online. Given that the next meeting of Council is on October 18, 2011, this report recommends that Council ratify the decision at its meeting of September 27, 2011.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Correspondence from the Chapter Manager, Autism Ontario – York Region
Chapter dated September 15, 2011

Report prepared by

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



Autism Awareness Month

October, 2011

WHEREAS Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have seen a 600% increase in their diagnoses over the last 20 years, and currently affect the lives of 80,000 Ontarians, including an estimated group of over 2,700 Vaughan residents and their families.

ASD affects 1 in every 110 children born, as well as their families, friends and communities.

ASD affects all of us, regardless of race, economic and socio-cultural circumstances, education, or any other difference by which we are defined.

ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means that it not only presents differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each individual as well. This makes it even more difficult for society to understand the disorder – indeed, it is said that “if you’ve met one person with ASD, you’ve met one person with ASD”.

A child with ASD will become an adult with ASD.

Autism Ontario is a leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support to thousands of families across York Region and around the province.

Because the mission of Autism Ontario is to ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society, and because our vision is of acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with ASD, and because we know that the key to understanding, compassion and progress is awareness, Autism Ontario is inviting the Vaughan community to observe Autism Awareness Month in an effort to raise public awareness, as well as much needed support.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, on behalf of Vaughan City Council, do hereby proclaim October, 2011 as "Autism Awareness Month" in the City of Vaughan.

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Dougald".

Sarah Dougald
Chapter Manager
Autism Ontario - York Region Chapter

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2011
CLERK'S DEPT.