



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: June 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Urban Design & Development, New York NY July 2019

PREPARED BY: Stephen Chait, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, ext. 4871

REVIEWED BY: Stephen Chait, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, ext. 4871

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report dated June 10, 2019 entitled “Urban Design & Development, New York NY July 2019” be received; and
- 2) That the 6-person Markham delegation to conduct site visits to view urban design & development in New York City be approved, and the City of Markham be represented by the Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Services, the Chief Administrative Officer, the Commissioner of Development Services, and the Director of Planning & Urban Design; and
- 4) That the total cost of the delegation to New York, NY not exceed \$10,000.00 and be expensed from within the 2019 Business Travel account 610-9985201; and
- 5) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval of a 6-person delegation led by Mayor Scarpitti to conduct site visits to view and understand urban design and development initiatives in New York City, which can inform future development in Markham.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

New York City (and Manhattan in particular) has earned a reputation as a city that has successfully introduced innovative new urban design and development concepts. Examples include the recently opened Hudson Yards (an Oxford/OMERS project), the pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly remodeling of major thoroughfares, and the upgrading of plazas and squares as “people-friendly” and creative spaces.

The City of Markham has a proud record of innovation and urban design leadership (e.g., new urbanism, Digital Markham, etc.). Staff recommend that the Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Services, the CAO, the Commissioner of Development Services, and the Director of Planning & Urban Design conduct a 3-day site visit to view and understand New York’s urban design and development successes, which can inform

future development and design solutions in Markham. In particular, the site visits and meetings (see Appx. A. Trip Itinerary) will be useful in addressing design solutions to guide future development of the Yonge Street Corridor between Highway 407 and Steeles Avenue. Landowners and developer stakeholders from within the Yonge Street Corridor will be participating in the visit to NYC (at no expense to the City).

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost for the 3-day, 2-night visit to New York by the 6-person City of Markham delegation will not exceed \$10,000.00.

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|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Airfare and ground transportation | \$3,500.00 |
| Overnight accommodation | \$5,000.00 |
| Food and incidentals | \$1,500.00 |

This cost is to be funded from within the 2019 Business Travel account 610-998-5201.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

None

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Markham 2020 Economic Strategy
Building Markham's Future Together

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Finance
Planning and Urban Design

RECOMMENDED BY:

Stephen Chait, MPA, CMC
Director, Economic Growth, Culture
& Entrepreneurship

Arvin Prasad, MPA, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner,
Development Services

Appendix A. Travel Itinerary