



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: June 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Markham Delegation to Nordlingen Germany September 2019

PREPARED BY: Stephen Chait, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, ext. 6590

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report dated June 10, 2019 entitled “Markham Delegation to Nordlingen Germany September 2019” be received; and,
2. That the Markham delegation to attend the Wall Festival in Nordlingen Germany, September 5-8, 2019 be approved and Mayor and City Council be represented by a two-person delegation comprising Regional Councillor Jack Heath and Ward 4 Councillor Karen Rea, and,
3. That the total cost of the delegation to Nordlingen Germany not exceed \$4,900.00 and be expensed from within the 2019 Business Travel account 610-9985201; and,
4. 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 community delegation who will represent Markham at the historic Wall Festival in Nordlingen Germany from Thursday, September 5, 2019 to Sunday, September 8, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

On June 26, 2001 the Town of Markham entered into an Alliance Agreement with the City of Nordlingen, Germany, to formalize cultural and heritage ties. Nordlingen is where William Berczy and 220 German immigrants originated. The Berczy group settled in and founded what is now the City of Markham, in 1794.

Every 2 years City of Nordlingen holds a Wall Festival and parade and invites the participation of its Sister Cities (including Markham). The City of Markham participated in the September 2016 Festival. There will be a number of events, including speeches, concerts and a parade. Events will take place over 4 days, from Thursday, September 5, 2019 to Sunday, September 8, 2019.

Mayor Scarpitti is unable to attend the celebration, however six Markham community representatives, including Regional Councillor Heath and Councillor Rea have made arrangements to attend. Other attendees include; Town Crier John Webster and spouse, and City of Markham Historian Lorne Smith and spouse.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

2019 marks the 18th anniversary of the Alliance/Sister City Agreement between Markham and Nordlingen. The warm and active relations between Markham and Nordlingen have been enhanced through regular visits by both parties including youth orchestras, choirs and municipal delegations. Staff recommends that this significant celebration warrants official delegation status for those representing the City of Markham.

Staff further recommends that an expenditure of \$4,900.00 be approved, to cover the costs to be incurred by the two Councillors and materials related to the parade and presentations.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost for each Councillor will be approximately \$2200.00 (\$1,200.00 airfare + \$500.00 accommodation + \$500.00 food. The cost to the City for marketing, promotion materials and parade related materials will not exceed \$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

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Finance

Culture & Economic Development

RECOMMENDED BY:

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Wall Festival Program (in German)