



## Proclamations Policy

Policy Category: Governance/Protocol

Policy No.:

Implementing Procedure No.:

Approving Authority:

**COUNCIL**

Effective Date:

**MAY 3, 2011**

Approved or Last Reviewed Date:

**MAY 3, 2011**

Next Review Year:

Area(s) this policy applies to:

**Proclamations Issued by the City**

Owner Department:

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

Related Policy(ies):

- Community Flag Raising & Flag Protocol Policy

Note: Questions about this policy should be directed to the Owner Department.

### 1. Purpose Statement *(Outline why the organization is issuing the policy and its desired effect or outcome of the policy)*

The purpose of the Proclamation Policy (Policy) is to provide for a standard to govern requests for proclamations issued by the City of Markham (City) in recognition of individuals, events, organizations or community groups of significance in the City.

### 2. Policy Statements *(Detail the specific regulations, requirements, or modifications to organizational behaviour to be addressed by this policy)*

#### a. Policy Statements:

The City issues proclamations to recognize individuals, events, organizations and community groups of significance to the City. A proclamation will recognize a particular day, week or month.

The proclamation itself is issued to acknowledge the effort and commitment of an individual, organization or community group and should not be interpreted as an endorsement by the City.

The Council of the City of Markham has authority to approve or deny requests for proclamations. The Clerk has been delegated the authority to approve or deny requests for proclamations during Council's summer recess, where required.

The decision of Council or the Clerk, where applicable, is final.

**b. Proclamation Criteria:**

Proclamations will demonstrate an interest in or relationship to the City, including but not limited to:

- (a) Arts celebrations;
- (b) Cultural celebrations;
- (c) Charitable fundraising campaigns;
- (d) Civic promotions;
- (e) Public awareness campaigns; and,
- (f) Honouring individuals or organizations for special achievement(s).

Proclamations related to the following will not be approved, including but not limited to:

- (a) Individuals, events, organizations or community groups with no demonstrated significant interest or relationship to the City;
- (b) Political parties or political organizations;
- (c) Religious organizations or the celebration of religious events;
- (d) Businesses or commercial enterprises;
- (e) Illegal matters, including matters contrary to corporate policies or by-laws;
- (f) Matters which defame the integrity of the City;
- (g) Discriminatory or inflammatory matters;
- (h) Matters designed to incite hatred or disorder; and,
- (i) Matters which are untruthful.

Proclamations will not be issued if the first day to be recognized has passed.

Council or the Clerk during Council's summer recess where required, will decide on requests for proclamations which do not fall into any of the criteria outlined above.

**c. Application Procedure:**

- (a) Requests for proclamations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing using the application form prescribed by the Clerk at least three (3) weeks in advance of the first date of recognition.
- (b) The Clerk will review all applications and determine if the proclamation is consistent with the Policy.
- (c) The Clerk may request and make any amendments to the proclamation, which in the Clerk's opinion improves the structure and/or overall intent of the requested

proclamation.

- (d) If the proclamation was previously approved by Council within 5 years of the current proclamation request, and is consistent with the Proclamation Criteria in (c), the proclamation will be issued, and noted on a Council agenda for information purposes.
- (e) If the proclamation was not previously approved by Council, or was approved by council more than 5 years before the current request, the Clerk will make a recommendation to Council to approve or deny the proclamation on a Council agenda prior to the first date of recognition if possible) for information purposes.
- (f) Any proclamations approved or denied by the Clerk during Council's summer recess will be noted on a Council agenda when Council reconvenes for information purposes.

#### **d. Communication of Proclamation**

- (a) The individual, organization or community group will be responsible for disseminating the proclamation to the media and making arrangements for the attendance of the Mayor and/or Councillors at the specific function or event, if any, at which the proclamation is to be made.
- (b) Certificates of proclamations are available from the Office of the Mayor upon request.
- (c) Proclamations may be listed in any City publication or notice, at the discretion of the City.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities** *(Outline roles and responsibilities of those involved in the implementation of the policy)*

The Clerk will be responsible for the implementation and interpretation of this Policy.