

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: July 14, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of
Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
July 22, 2020

Subject

Community Recognition – Recommendation for Restarting the Program

Recommendation

1. That Council receive the report entitled Community Recognition – Recommendation for Restarting the Program.
2. That Council approve lifting the suspension of the Community Recognition Program in order to begin receiving community requests on August 1, 2020.
3. That Council support the option of keeping the clock tower lighting yellow on days that do not have Community Recognition lighting booked once the program resumes.

Report Highlights

- Given that the Province has moved to Stage Two of recovery, the City is beginning to reopen facilities and restart many aspects of normal business and the Region is preparing for Stage Three, it is recommended that the current suspension of the Community Recognition program be lifted and that staff begin to receive and approve community requests again beginning August 1, 2020.
- Restarting the program would mean that the current yellow tower lighting would stop on July 31, 2020 to accommodate new community requests. Staff recommends that the tower remain lit yellow on days that do not have a Community Recognition lighting booked.
- For community requests that were cancelled or not processed due to the suspension, groups would be offered a new date for their flag raising or lighting after August 1 (pending program availability.)
- As an added precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, additional wording around safety, physical distancing and limits to onsite gatherings would be included in communications to all requestors.

Background

On March 19, 2020, the City of Mississauga temporarily suspended the Community Recognition program as the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic began to take precedence over day-to-day business.

In addition, Council voted to light the clock tower yellow as a sign of hope throughout the pandemic.

As a result of this direction, the following planned activities were cancelled over the past four months:

Month	Cancelled Tower Lightings/Dimmings	Cancelled Flag Raisings	Exceptions
March	8	2	
April	9	2	Nova Scotia Tragedy lighting
May	13	1	
June	5		
July			Pride flag raising and tower lighting

Since the suspension, staff has received 11 new requests. These requestors would have received an auto-reply noting the temporary suspension:

Month	Tower Lightings	Flag Raisings
April	2	1
May	2	
June	2	1
July	1	2

Any of the above requests scheduled to take place after August will be evaluated along with new requests. For requested dates that have passed, the requestor would be offered an alternate date after August 1 (pending program availability.)

For a list of previously-approved Community Recognition activities and the screening/approval process for new requests, see Appendix 1.

Present Status

Given that the Province has moved to Stage Two of recovery, the City is starting to reopen facilities and restart many aspects of normal business and the Region is preparing for Stage Three, it is recommended that the current suspension of the Community Recognition program be lifted and that staff begin to receive and approve new requests again beginning August 1, 2020.

This would also mean that the current yellow tower lighting would stop on July 31, 2020 to accommodate new community requests. Alternately, the tower could remain lit yellow on days that do not have a Community Recognition lighting booked.

Comments

Impacts of COVID-19 moving forward

As we restart the Community Recognition program, we recognize that COVID-19 will continue to impact the program in several ways.

Impact on Lightings

Generally speaking, the impact of COVID-19 will not heavily affect the clock tower lightings, since there is rarely an onsite component. However, as a precaution, staff will include the following wording in communications to requestors of approved lightings:

- At this time, the provincial government has limited gatherings to 10 people or less. If you are planning to gather at Mississauga Celebration Square for your lighting, please ensure your group is limited to 10 people or less
- All attendees must practice physical distancing while onsite

Impact on Flag Raisings

The impacts of COVID-19 on flag raisings will be a bit stricter as many groups coordinate gatherings and small ceremonies on the day of their flag raising.

As an added precaution, staff will include the following wording in communications to requestors of approved flag raisings:

- At this time, the provincial government has limited gatherings to 10 people or less. If you are planning to gather at Mississauga Celebration Square for your flag raising, please ensure your group is limited to 10 people or less (this includes the Mayor and any Members of Council who may be in attendance)
- All attendees must practice physical distancing while onsite
- The use of hand sanitizer and face coverings is encouraged for anyone attending a flag raising during this time
- Ceremonies/gatherings should be as brief as possible

All of the above instructions will be updated in accordance with any changes to the province's restrictions on gatherings.

Options

Restarting the program would mean that the current yellow tower lighting would stop on July 31, 2020 to accommodate new community requests. Alternately, the tower could remain lit yellow on days that do not have a Community Recognition lighting booked.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to restarting the Community Recognition program, as the program is managed within existing operational budgets.

Conclusion

Staff feels this is an opportune time to restart the Community Recognition program, as it aligns with the reopening of City services and programs in Stage Two of recovery and supports plans and preparations for Stage Three.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Remaining approved requests for 2020

For



Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Lindsay Francini, Supervisor, Employee Communications and Events