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February 11th, 2014

**COMMUNITY SERVICES – RECREATION & CULTURE
INFORMATION REPORT # 2014-08**

TO: Members of Council

COPY: Bob Shelton, CAO
Anita Moore, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Rob Prentice, Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services
Members of OLT

SUBJECT: Freedom of the City Follow up and Update

ORIGIN: Director of Recreation and Culture

COMMENTS

In accordance with the Procedure Bylaw, any member of Council may request this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

At the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 24, 2013, the following motion was adopted:

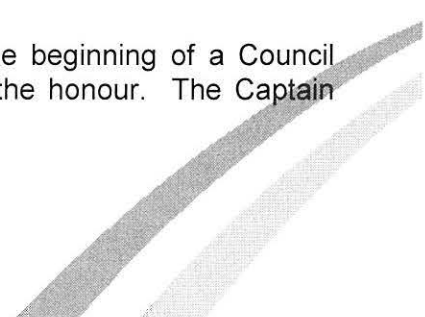
THAT the motion with respect to bestowing the 'Freedom of the City' to the Queen's York Rangers be referred to the August 26, 2013 Committee of the Whole and an information report be circulated prior to the meeting.

Freedom of the City is an honour bestowed by a municipality upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary. Arising from the medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom from serfdom, the tradition still lives on in countries such as the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia, and Canada – although today, the title of "freeman" confers no special privileges. The Freedom of the City can also be granted by municipal authorities to military units which have earned the city's trust; in this context, it is sometimes called the Freedom of Entry. This allows them the freedom to parade through the city, and is an affirmation of the bond between the regiment and the citizenry.

Staff contacted the Queen's York Rangers 1st American Regiment RCAC National Defence in July, 2013 and had been corresponding with a Captain, who had responded as follows:

"On behalf of the Commanding Officer of the Queen's York Rangers I am pleased to ensure our desire and participation in the QYR being bestowed the Freedom of the City."

It was discussed with the Captain that a small ceremony would happen at the beginning of a Council Meeting where the regiment would briefly parade into chambers to be bestowed the honour. The Captain



further advised that the Regiment was on exercise until the end of summer after which time it would be best to deal with the logistical aspects of such an event.

Staff contacted the Captain in early September. Staff were then advised that the matter had been referred to the Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer advised staff that the process of bestowing Freedom of the City required a full parade through the Town, by protocol. The Commanding Officer further advised that Prince Andrew would be visiting York in May, 2014 – that it might be possible to bestow the honour, complete with full parade corresponding with Prince Andrew's visit.

Staff are continuing to correspond with the Commanding Officer to explore options. Staff are working through various options and associated financial implications. Given it would appear an event will involve staff and resources not earlier anticipated, a report with options and associated budget impacts will be brought to Council for consideration as soon as possible.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Well Balanced

- Arts, culture, entertainment and heritage preservation
- Events that help shape identity and contribute to community spirit

Well Respected

- Being tradition-based and forward thinking

BUDGET IMPACT

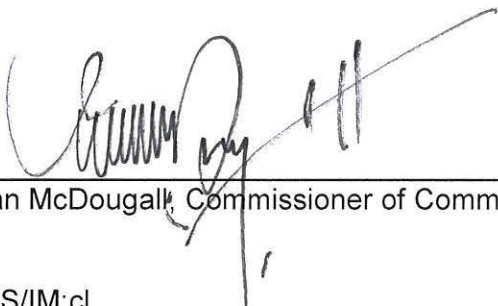
There is no direct budget impact at this time.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, please contact Colin Service, Director of Recreation & Culture at cservice@newmarket.ca or at extension 2601.



Colin Service, Director of Recreation & Culture



Ian McDougall, Commissioner of Community Services