Wednesday, December 07, 2016

1:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Council Chambers – 4th Floor – City Hall

Members:
City Councillor J. Bowman – Wards 3 and 4 (Chair)
Regional Councillor G. Gibson – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor E. Moore – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor M. Palleschi – Wards 2 and 6
Regional Councillor M. Medeiros – Wards 3 and 4
Regional Councillor G. Miles – Wards 7 and 8
Regional Councillor J. Sprovieri – Wards 9 and 10
City Councillor D. Whillans – Wards 2 and 6
   (Vice-Chair, Economic Development and Enterprise Services)
City Councillor P. Fortini – Wards 7 and 8
City Councillor G. Dhillon – Wards 9 and 10

For inquiries about this Agenda, or to make arrangements for accessibility accommodations for persons attending (some advance notice may be required), please contact:

Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator
Phone (905) 874-2178, TTY (905) 874-2130, cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca

Note: Some meeting information may also be available in alternate formats, upon request
Agenda
Economic Development Committee

Note: Please ensure all cell phones, mobile and other electronic devices are turned off or placed on non-audible mode during the meeting. Council Members are prohibited from sending text messages, e-mails and other electronic messaging during the meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

3. Consent

* The following items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Committee and will be approved at this time. There will be no separate discussion of any of these items unless a Committee Member requests it, in which case the item will not be consented to and will be considered in the normal sequence of the agenda.

(nil)

4. Announcements

5. Delegations

6. Staff Presentations

7. Economic Development and Enterprise Services


To be distributed prior to the meeting

9. **Other/New Business**

10. **Referred Matters**

10.1. **Referred Matters List – Economic Development Committee**

   *To be received*

11. **Deferred Matters**

12. **Notices of Motion**

13. **Correspondence**

14. **Councillors Question Period**

15. **Public Question Period**

   15 Minute Limit (regarding any decision made at this meeting)

16. **Closed Session**

17. **Adjournment**

   Next Meeting: January 18, 2017 (Committee of Council)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RML ID</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resolution Motion</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Report Name (working title only)</th>
<th>Original Deadline/Target</th>
<th>Revised Target Date</th>
<th>Revision Number</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RM 20/2016</td>
<td>2016/04/20</td>
<td>ED049-2016</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Feasibility of Opening a Farmers’ Market in Chinguacousy Park</td>
<td>2016/09/07</td>
<td>2017/05/17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>B. Darling x3926</td>
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<td>RM 54/2016</td>
<td>2016/11/16</td>
<td>ED108-2016</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Future role of the Blue Ribbon Panel in the 2017 university request for proposals process</td>
<td>2017/02/15</td>
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<td>M. McCollum x5333</td>
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Changes to the Agenda

Economic Development Committee – December 7, 2016

1. The following report was listed on the agenda to be distributed prior the meeting:

Date: 2016-11-16


Contact: Bob Darling, Director Economic Development and Culture

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Bob Darling, Director, Economic Development, dated November 25, 2016, to the Economic Development Committee Meeting of December 7, 2016, re: Health Sector Trade Mission – United Arab Emirates (File CE.x), be received;

2. That Council approve Mayor Jeffrey’s participation as leader of the World Trade Centre Toronto’s health sector trade mission to United Arab Emirates January 30-February 7, 2016, according to Business Mission Attendance Protocol; and

3. That a post-mission verbal report to Committee of Council be presented upon return, with a written information report to follow.

Overview:

- World Trade Centre Toronto (WTC-T) has invited Her Worship, Linda Jeffrey, Mayor of Brampton, to lead their trade mission focused on business development and trade in the health and life sciences sector, to foster strong bilateral trade and investment between the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and the UAE, January 30 to February 7, 2017.

- This report presents an analysis of the case for attending the mission.

Background:

- Human Health and Life Sciences has been acknowledged a key sector in Brampton for more than 13 years, because of its higher quality jobs, growth potential and public investment.

- City of Brampton is a founding partner (2016) of TO Healthl, the regional organization whose mandate is to raise the profile of the Toronto Region Human Health and Sciences (HHS) cluster.

- Toronto Global, the regional business attraction agency, works on behalf of whole region. Toronto Global cannot promote any one GTA city/sub-region
over any other and therefore Brampton is prudent to implement business attraction efforts complementary to Toronto Global’s efforts.

- Economic Development Office has recently completed an organizational and strategic transformation, a sector-based, proactive approach, identifying four targeted sectors: Advanced Manufacturing (AM), Food and Beverage Processing (F&B), **Human Health and Science (HHS)** including Life Sciences, and Innovation and Technology (I&T).

**Current Situation:**

**Introduction**

- The acceleration of technology and globalization require local governments to build healthy, growth-ready communities which are poised to leverage the economic advantages in a global market.

- Canada continues to pursue free trade agreements globally, the most recent example being the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) signed with the European Union in autumn 2016. These agreements build Canada’s advantage as a trading partner and a location for foreign direct investment (FDI) across Canada.

**Global Human Health and Sciences**

- The global human health and (life) sciences sector is among the fastest growing sectors around the world, fueled by scientific discovery, population growth, and increases in the middle class in emerging markets. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) reports that health care spending in the 60 countries that it covers...is expected to increase by an average of 4.3 percent [annually] from 2015 to 2019. In the pharmaceutical segment alone, global pharma sales should reach $1.4 trillion by 2019.

- Biotech drug sales were an estimated $289 billion in 2014 and are projected to grow to $445 billion by 2019. “1 This steady growth presents opportunities for growth in Brampton. For example, Canada’s pharmaceutical market had an average annual growth rate of 6.4% from 2006-2010; and employment in the manufacturing portion of the sector grew 14% in the 10 years 2002-2012.2

**HHS sector in Ontario (source: www.investinontario.com)**

- Size of Cluster: Ontario ranks sixth in North America by the number of life sciences establishments and by employment, with 1900 firms and approximately 40,000 employees. The cluster includes top-ranked institutions, researchers, developers and manufacturers. 53 of the world’s top 100 life

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2. Brampton Economic Development Life Sciences sector profile
sciences multinationals and 16 of the top 25 global medical device companies operate in Toronto region.

- **Talent:** Ontario’s 44 universities and colleges produce more than 39,500 skilled graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) each year.
- **R&D:** Ontario boasts $14 billion in Life Sciences Research and Development (R&D) spending a year, driving discovery and innovation in the industry.
- **Programs and Incentives:** Ontario’s R&D tax credits are the most generous among the OECD countries. Combined with federal R&D programs, Ontario’s R&D Tax Program can reduce a firm’s after-tax cost of every $100 in R&D spending to between $61 and $37.

**HHS Sector in Brampton**

- The Human Health and Sciences (including Life Sciences) sector in Brampton employs 11,700 employees in 250 companies and health services. There are more than 830 organizations (private and public) in health care and life sciences in Brampton.
- The proposed mission will continue momentum in the HHS sector, given recent local projects including the recent *PMC and Surrounding Precinct Market and Economic Development Opportunity Study* ("health hub report"); Human Health and Sciences sector focus group event; and anticipated, formal opening of Peel Memorial Hospital for Integrated Health and Wellness.

**Mission Details, Partnerships and Opportunities**

- This mission is being coordinated by World Trade Centre Toronto (WTC-T, a subsidiary of Toronto Region Board of Trade) January 30-February 7, 2016. Mission highlights include an industry briefing at the Canadian consulate in Dubai, participation in the Arab Health Exhibition and Congress (Jan.31-Feb.2, 4000 exhibitors from 70 countries), and a meeting/event with Dubai Investment Development Agency. Additional investor discussions are currently being coordinated by WTC-T.
- WTC-T is collaborating with key partners, including Toronto Global, TO Health!, Province of Ontario, and The Brampton Board of Trade, to prepare the most effective mission which complements all partners' goals.
- Three Brampton companies have already been invited by WTC-T. In consultation with The Brampton Board of Trade, Brampton Mayor’s Office and Brampton Economic Development, others will be identified for potential participation (at their cost.) The mission will include up to 25 exceptional companies from the GTHA region to showcase the knowledge, expertise and innovation of these Canadian businesses in the GTHA.
- WTC-T is developing the itinerary for this mission, making all necessary connections, and will provide in-market staff to support the mission. See *Appendix 1* for a draft version of the mission. WTC-T continues to build value and opportunities into the mission; final itinerary is anticipated early January.
- Strengths and opportunities of the mission include the development of market opportunities for trade and investment as well as promotion of Brampton as a
key player in the Ontario/GTA HHS cluster. See Appendix 2 for further details.

- The Brampton Board of Trade is attending and partnering with Toronto Region Board of Trade on this mission.

The Case for U.A.E.

- U.A.E. is a wealthy, high-demand, rapidly-growing country, and economic and medical hub for the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Al-Ayn, all in U.A.E., are considered global cities of the future by the McKinsey Global Institute. See Appendix 3: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Market Summary

- Trade relationships with U.A.E. are established, valuable and growing. U.A.E. is Canada's 15th largest export destination. Ontario exported over $670M worth of goods (all industries) to U.A.E. in 2015, a significant increase from $271M in 2011. More than ten companies in Brampton, mainly in manufacturing, already export to U.A.E.³

- Since 2007, the healthcare budget allocated by the UAE has nearly doubled, from USD 6.5 billion in 2007, exceeding USD 12 billion in 2012. ⁴ The MENA healthcare market is predicted to be worth $144 billion USD by 2020.⁵

Anticipated Outcomes / Next Steps

- This mission will result in an enhanced assessment of the UAE's health services environment, which will lead to development of actions to accelerate the provision of associated services by Canadian - and Bramptonian - health sector firms and organizations by WTC-T and TO Health!

- Any specific opportunities will be responded to using the follow-up protocol implemented on all international missions.

- Learnings and resulting actions from this mission will be integrated into the Brampton HHS (including Life Sciences) sector strategy.

- Moreover, a strategic recommendation report will be prepared and presented to Council in Q1 2017 reflecting the new vision for Economic Development and Culture, including a business attraction strategy inclusive of regional, national and international elements.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are sufficient funds to proceed with this initiative in the 2017 budget. Costs are anticipated at $5100 per person, for Mayor Jeffrey and for any staff person who may attend. Note: Brampton Mayor and staff are not required to pay the $1990 business delegate fee.

³ Source: Brampton Economic Development Office
Other Implications:

Policy Impact: The mission will be attended in accordance with:
    - Note: Protocol allows maximum of one member of Council and one
      staff person to attend any outbound mission
  - Travel Expense Policy 13.3.5

Communications: For the purpose of communication and administration, the
Designated Contact from City staff is the Director of Economic Development and
Culture.

Strategic Plan:

This report aligns with the City's Strategic Plan priority of Smart Growth
  - Cultivate economic growth and stability, innovation hubs and foreign
    investment

Conclusion:

This is a unique opportunity for Mayor Jeffrey to represent Brampton and the GTHA's
strong Human Health and Sciences sector. The mission can provide opportunities
to local businesses to offer their products and services in a wealthy, high-demand
market. The mission is timely, given recent local projects which are building the
strength of the HHS sector in Brampton. Finally, this mission offers the opportunity to
raise the profile of Brampton as a bold, ambitious city among members of the GTHA
business community, regional and provincial peers and new international contacts.

Approved by:

Bob Darling, Director
Economic Development
and Culture

Approved by:

Harry Schlage, CAO

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Mission Itinerary
Appendix 2: Strengths and Opportunities of the Mission
Appendix 3: United Arab Emirates Market Summary

Report authored by: C.Baccardax and R. Seguin
# Appendix 1: Mission Itinerary (Draft)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Rep.</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:45 pm EST</strong></td>
<td>Departure from Toronto Pearson International Airport to Dubai</td>
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<td><strong>10:45 pm GST</strong></td>
<td>Arrival at Dubai International</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, January 31st</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:30am-10am</strong></td>
<td>Canadian Consulate</td>
<td>Industry Briefing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11am-5pm</strong></td>
<td>Arab Health Exhibition and Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7-9pm</strong></td>
<td>Canadian Consulate</td>
<td>Canada at Arab Health Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, February 1st</strong></td>
<td><strong>10am-6pm</strong></td>
<td>Arab Health Exhibition and Congress/B2B Meetings</td>
<td>FREE EVENING</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, February 2nd</strong></td>
<td><strong>TBD</strong></td>
<td>Official meetings</td>
<td>FDI</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, February 3rd - Cultural Activities/Free Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>10am-5pm</strong></td>
<td>Arab Health Exhibition and Congress/B2B Meetings</td>
<td><strong>TBD - AM</strong></td>
<td>Dubai Investment Dev Agency (FDI)</td>
<td>Doing Business in Dubai/Market opportunities Seminar</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, February 4th - Cultural Activities/Free Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>TBD - AM</strong></td>
<td>Abu Dhabi Health Services Company</td>
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<td><strong>TBD - AM</strong></td>
<td>Abu Dhabi healthcare city</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 5th - (Abu Dhabi)</strong></td>
<td><strong>TBD - AM</strong></td>
<td>Dubai Health Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TBD - PM</strong></td>
<td>Dubai Science Park</td>
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<td>Marwan Abdulaziz Janahi</td>
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<td><strong>TBD - PM</strong></td>
<td>Future Foundation Accelerator</td>
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<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td>FREE TIME</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Closing networking evening/reception</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, February 6th (Dubai)</strong></td>
<td><strong>TBD - AM</strong></td>
<td>Dubai Health Authority</td>
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<td><strong>TBD - PM</strong></td>
<td>Dubai Science Park</td>
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<td>Marwan Abdulaziz Janahi</td>
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<td><strong>TBD - PM</strong></td>
<td>Future Foundation Accelerator</td>
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<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td>FREE TIME</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 7th</strong></td>
<td><strong>AM</strong></td>
<td>Departure from Dubai International Airport to Toronto</td>
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Appendix 2 - Strengths and Opportunities of the Mission

During the mission:

- Promotion of Brampton as a key player within the Ontario/GTA HHS cluster
- Networking to build new relationships internationally and regionally, opening doors to new ideas and markets. Strengthen relationships with Toronto Region Board of Trade, World Trade Centre Toronto, Toronto Global and TO Health.
- Support the Brampton business community to develop market opportunities throughout mission and specifically at:
  - Arab Health Exhibition, the largest global business gathering of healthcare and trade professionals in the Middle East, network with more than 4,000 of the world’s leading healthcare organizations coming in from 70 countries.
  - Business-to-business meetings arranged by WTC-T
  - Within the regional delegation
- First-hand Learning of U.A.E. and Gulf Region HHS sector
- Promotion of Brampton as the ideal North American location for business investment, through Mayor Jeffrey’s role as mission lead including activities, such as:
  - delivering a keynote speech
  - leading a specific discussion
  - participating on a panel
  - business-to-business meetings
- Public Relations: high-profile mission will draw high quality PR opportunities abroad and within GTA/Ontario, building Brampton’s image as an ambitious city

Future opportunities:

- Follow up from the mission may result in trade, investment, sharing of best practices, technology transfers, etc. including:
  - Opportunities for Canadian partnership with U.A.E. healthcare entities, including I.T. infrastructure integration, diabetes and non-communicable disease prevention, workforce development etc.1
  - Opportunities for business solutions including exporting and supply chain management related to gaps in healthcare services. In U.A.E., gaps still exist across the nation in critical areas such as women’s care, oncology, pediatrics and diabetes care2, many of which are speciality areas and a focus within Brampton’s ecosystem. Additionally, expertise in medical

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supplies, equipment, and management services are in constant demand. This includes cardiovascular medical devices, firms that can design and build hospitals, and healthcare organizations that have experience administering and staffing general hospitals and specialty clinics.

- Pharmaceuticals industry within U.A.E. is expected to grow 14.5%, reaching $3.58B USD by 2019. The Medical Devices industry grew by 11% from 2009-2012 and is also positioned for significant growth.
- Opportunities for bilateral investment
Appendix 3: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Market Summary

Why UAE?

- A recent report from Al Masah Capital Research predicts that the healthcare sector in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will be worth $144 billion by 2020, significantly higher than the $81.1 billion recorded in 2011, for a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.6 percent during the interval period. The evolution of healthcare services, including significant investments intended to drive the industry forward, is a top priority in all seven emirates, and sets U.A.E. apart from other countries in the Gulf.

- Deloitte’s Healthcare Outlook 2015 Report credits the UAE with rapidly growing populations and per capita incomes, rising life expectancies, a high incidence of lifestyle-related diseases, and ambitious medical infrastructure projects which are driving health care industry growth in the Middle East.

- Dubai boasts advanced infrastructure, facilities, regulatory processes and the implementation of international best practice and standards for patient care. This has helped the Emirates secure a pioneering position in diagnostics and treatment in a wide range of differing medical areas. (Source: Toronto Region Board of Trade Early Invitation Life Sciences Trade mission to UAE)

- U.A.E.’s economy continues to grow at a strong rate, (3.8% in 2013) and demonstrated resilience even during the global economic downturn of 2008. Private consumption is expected to continue to expand, underpinned by robust national population growth and expansionary fiscal and monetary policies; whilst concurrently, government consumption will increase as the fiscal expansion continues.¹

- Since 2007, the healthcare budget allocated by the UAE has nearly doubled, from USD 6.5 billion in 2007, exceeding USD 12 billion in 2012. During the same period, the healthcare budget as a percentage of the GDP has experienced an increase from 2.5% to 3.1% in 2012, with a high point of 4.4%, registered in 2009 following the global financial crisis. ²

- U.A.E. relies heavily on imported medicine and medical equipment.

- Dubai is the leader in medical tourism in the Gulf Region

¹ Colliers Overview Report, UAE, Healthcare, Q4 2013

² Colliers Overview Report, UAE, Healthcare, Q4 2013
Six hundred cities—the City 600—are projected to generate more than 60 percent of global growth to 2025. Within this group, companies need to adjust their strategy to include the 577 fast-growing “middleweight cities.” Source: McKinsey Global Institute Urban world: Mapping the economic power of cities http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/urbanization/urban-world-mapping-the-economic-power-of-cities

Cultural connections: According to the 2011 National Household Survey, in Brampton there were just under 4200 individuals from, or consider themselves Arab; and over 75,000 in GTA. (Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey)
University Work Plan Update

Presentation to Economic Development Committee

December 7, 2016
Background

• October 26, 2016 - Provincial announcement re. University facility in Brampton

• November 16, 2016 - Work plan was presented to Economic Development Committee

• December 7, 2016 - update on work plan to Economic Development Committee
Progress to Date

• Staff team in place, regular meetings underway

• Outreach:
  • Meetings with Milton, Kitchener, Markham and local businesses
  • Initiated contact with key Provincial officials
  • Staff meeting has taken place with Sean Conway re: “Building the Workforce of Tomorrow” Report
  • Contact has been made with Universities regarding possible partnerships
  • Meetings are in place with Algoma and Sheridan

• Budget for operating costs and placeholder for municipal contribution considered by Budget Committee

• Government Relations Strategy
## Work Plan – Prior to Call for Proposals

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assemble core team</td>
<td>Nov 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed placeholder to Budget Committee</td>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen statistical analysis</td>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach to Province and other levels of government</td>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examine Highly Skilled Workforce Planning Report</td>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach to Brampton businesses, existing post-secondary institutions and other stakeholders</td>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach to potential University partners</td>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>In progress</td>
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Next Steps

• Continue with work plan
  • Strengthening City’s position
  • Continue outreach to businesses and post-secondary institutions

• Presentation by Sean Conway to Economic Development Committee (Q1 2017)

• Staff recommendation on future of Blue Ribbon Panel (Q1 2017)

• Review and alignment of work plan following Province’s RFP issuance in January

• Attendance at upcoming events (Minister Mathews Jan 17)

• Continue with regular updates to Committee
# Request for Delegation

**Attention:**
City Clerk's Office, City of Brampton, 2 Wellington Street West, Brampton ON L6Y 4R2  
Email: cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca  
Telephone: (905) 874-2100  
Fax: (905) 874-2119

**Meeting:**
- [ ] City Council
- [ ] Planning & Infrastructure Services Committee
- [ ] Corporate Srvc. Cmmtee  
- [ ] Community & Public Services Committee
- [X] Economic Dev. Committee
- [ ] Other: __________________________

**Meeting Date Requested:** Dec 05/16  
**Agenda Item (if applicable):** __________________________

**Name of Individual(s):**

PRANAVASRI DYATHURAI  
**Position/Title:** Director  
**Organization/Person being Represented:** Tamil Canadian Civil Society Forum (TCCSF)

**Full Address for Contact:** tccsf.ca@gmail.com  
**Telephone No.** __________________________  
**Fax No.** __________________________

**Subject Matter to be Discussed:**

Friendship Agreement between Brampton City and Vavuniya in Sri Lanka

**Action Requested:**

Speaking to the general topic of the agenda - the item indicated above.

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**Note:** a delegation is limited to not more than five minutes.  
**Attach additional page if required.**

I am submitting a formal presentation to accompany my delegation: [ ] Yes  
[ ] No

I will require the following audio-visual equipment/software for my presentation:

- [ ] Computer Notebook
- [ ] DVD Player
- [ ] PowerPoint
- [ ] Other - please specify  

I will send through email:

**Note:**
Delegates are requested to provide to the City Clerk's Office well in advance of the meeting date: (i) 25 copies of all background material and/or presentations for publication with the meeting agenda and/or distribution at the meeting, and (ii) for PowerPoint and other visual presentations, an electronic copy of the presentation (e.g., DVD, CD, .ppt file) to ensure compatibility with corporate equipment.

Once the above information is received by the City Clerk's Office, you will be contacted by a Legislative Coordinator to confirm your placement on the appropriate agenda.

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**Personal Information:**

Personal information on this form is collected under authority of the Municipal Act, SO 2001, c.25 and/or the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13 and will be used in the preparation of the applicable council/committee agenda and will be attached to that agenda. Questions about the collection of personal information should be directed to the Deputy City Clerk, Council and Administrative Services, 2 Wellington Street West, Brampton, Ontario, L6Y 4R2, tel. 905-874-2115.
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

November 24, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Linda Jeffery
City of Brampton
Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Hon. [NAME OF INT'L OFFICIAL],

With our city's residents of Tamils' continued request for a more meaningful way to get engage in rebuilding their once homeland and its people, I am interested in sponsoring a proposal of a sister cities agreement between our city of Brampton and the City of Vavuniya in Sri Lanka. City of Brampton has around 20,000 residents of Tamil origins from Sri Lanka with their active role in civic engagement and high entrepreneurial involvement. Tamil diaspora makes the largest numbers in Canada and very highly in GTA area. Hence, Brampton has been a chosen city for Tamils in Ontario. Since their settling, notably within a quite shorter period through their relentless hard work, Tamil community has become an established community with many entrepreneurs and businesses, subsequently it thrives with numerous community organizations that are in pursuit of promoting multi-cultural values while preserve their culture.

In the post war situation in Sri Lanka, Tamils in Brampton want to take part in rebuilding their once homeland and its people with their financial resources and with the help of their City of Brampton. In this backdrop and with the current situation of development focused by many international partners of Tamil areas untapped resources and opportunities, Brampton Tamils positively believe it will be mutual beneficial for both community in Brampton and in Vavuniya in Sri Lanka. It's with great pleasure that I propose City of Brampton to enter into a sister city relationship with City of Vavuniya on behalf of the many citizens of our community.

As we look to the future of this alliance, we envision a growing awareness and appreciation of each other's culture as well as many cooperative activities which will be of mutual benefit to our communities. From this small beginning, we hope this partnership will continue for many generations, fostering educational, economic, and professional exchanges. We look forward to the limitless possibilities of this relationship.

Although this partnership will begin with an agreement between our respective cities, we see the strength and vitality of this long-term association residing in the organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals of our citizenry. To this end, I have identified a group of men and women to establish the sister city committee and who will be instrumental in guiding the partnership at this early stage. These individuals will be responsible for working with you and your community to develop a mutually acceptable sister city agreement and to prepare a plan for the initial activities and exchanges that will take place. I suggest that a similar body of individuals be assembled in the city of Vavuniya. Please note that Nimalan Karthikeyan will be your point of contact for finalizing the agreement and planning the initial activities. He can be reached at