



## **Staff Report for Council Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** April 8, 2020

**Report Number:** SRCM.20.06

**Department:** Office of the City Manager

**Division:** Office of the Clerk

**Subject:** **SRCM.20.06 – Consolidation of Regional Fire Services – Consent to a Study**

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### **Purpose:**

To recommend that Council formerly consent to a study of the consolidation of regional fire services.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- a) That Council for the City of Richmond Hill supports proceeding with study on the potential of a Regional Fire Services.
- b) That the City Clerk be directed to forward a copy of Council's resolution to the Regional Clerk.

### **Contact Person:**

Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk, extension 2529.

### **Report Approval:**

**Submitted by:** Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk

**Approved by:** Mary-Anne Dempster, Interim City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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### Background:

On January 22, 2020, Council adopted the following resolution:

#### **14.1 Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli - Regional Consolidation of Fire Services**

Whereas Fire Services is an essential service for the protection of people and property in Richmond Hill; and

Whereas Fire Services are provided by all municipalities; and

Whereas fire suppression should be planned without regard for municipal boundaries to determine the optimal location of stations for public safety; and

Whereas fire suppression is currently planned based on municipal boundaries; and

Whereas the majority of response calls made by Fire Services are medical-based calls; and

Whereas Police and Emergency Medical Services are already consolidated and delivered by York Region; and

Whereas effective and efficient service may be better planned and delivered by consolidating Fire Services at the Regional level together with other first response services; and

Whereas administrative efficiencies may be gained on non-suppression fire activities such as training, education, dispatch, vehicle maintenance and inspections; and

Whereas York Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson supports Regional consolidation of Fire Services;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

- i) That York Region be requested to upload fire services for the purpose of consolidating Fire Services at the regional level;
- ii) That said action involve all York Region municipalities; and
- iii) That this resolution be forwarded to York Region and the other York Region local municipalities for support.

On February 27, 2020, Regional Council adopted the following resolution:

1. WHEREAS the consolidation of Aurora and Newmarket fire services into Central York Fire Service has resulted in efficiencies through enhanced levels of fire service and cost efficiencies;
2. WHEREAS a Regional Fire Service may achieve further operating efficiencies, improved department structure, increased service level(s), and cost avoidance opportunities;

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3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Clerk share this motion with local municipal Councils requesting a resolution by May 29, 2020 indicating whether they support proceeding with a study on the potential creation of a Regional Fire Service.

Council's January 22, 2020 decision does not specifically consent to a study on the potential creation of a Regional Fire Service. The Region has requested confirmation that the City is consenting to the study by May 29, 2020. It is recommended that Council specifically consent to the proposed study, which is consistent with Council's earlier position on this matter.

### **Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:**

The Region has not advised of any potential financial implications for Richmond Hill related to the proposed study of the regional consolidation of fire services.

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan:**

The study of the possibility of regional consolidation of fire services is related to the strategic plan goal of wise management of resources.

### **Conclusion:**

Council adopted a resolution in support of regional consolidation of fire services. York Region has requested that Council consent to a study of this matter.

### **Attachments:**

The following attached document may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment A – Council Extract from January 22, 2020 meeting

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### Report Approval Details

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Document Title:      | SRCM.20.06 - Consolidation of Regional Fire Services - Consent for a Study.docx |
| Attachments:         | - SRCM.20.06 - Attachment A - Council Extract - 012220 - Item 14.1.docx         |
| Final Approval Date: | Apr 1, 2020   |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**MaryAnne Dempster - Apr 1, 2020 - 8:21 AM**