

May 8, 2024

Memo To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Anthony Ierullo, Director Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk

Subject: United Nations Flag at Richmond Hill's Municipal Office

Recommendation:

- a) That, in recognition of the United Nations University - Institute for Water, Environment and Health's ("UNU-IWEH") relocation to the City of Richmond Hill Municipal Offices (225 East Beaver Creek Rd.), Council authorizes a temporary exemption to the Community Flag Raising and Flag Protocol Policy to permit the United Nations flag to fly on one of the two Community Flagpoles until such time as a permanent solution is implemented.

Comments:

As announced on April 26, 2024, the City of Richmond Hill was successful in attracting the head office of United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) to 225 East Beaver Creek Rd (Suite 710). Richmond Hill was selected as the host City for the UNU-INWEH based on its exemplary leadership in the area of sustainability, its highly skilled and educated workforce, and the many opportunities the City offers for partnerships.

The UNU-INWEH is one of thirteen United Nations University (UNU) institutes located in 12 countries around the world that address a range of global development challenges. The UNU-INWEH specializes in water for development, working primarily with countries in the Global South and addressing water issues of global significance. The UNU-IWEH is committed to working collaboratively with the City to support the achievement of the City's environmental and sustainable development strategies. As with all UN agencies, the UNU-INWEH is required to fly the United Nations flag ("UN Flag") outside of their offices.

Council's approved Community Flag Raising and Flag Protocol Policy, and associated Customary Flag Configuration Procedure only permit:

- The flying of the Canada, Ontario and Richmond Hill flags on the three flagpole display adjacent to the sidewalk in front of the Municipal Offices;
- The flying of the Canadian Flags on the Community flagpoles, stationed adjacent to the north parking lots of the Municipal Offices;
- And approved community flags to be flown on the Community flagpoles for up to 1 week.



Under the policy the UN Flag can only be flown at the Municipal Office is for up to one week at a time. Staff are currently working with the UNU-IWEH to determine a permanent solution to permit the flying of the UN Flag over the duration of their Lease. As such, it is recommended that Council authorize a temporary exemption to the Community Flag Raising and Flag Protocol Policy to permit the UN Flag to fly on one of the two Community Flagpoles until such time as a permanent solution is implemented.

Anthony Ierullo
Director Economic Development
and Richmond Hill Centre

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