



## **Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** January 15, 2025

**Report Number:** SRCM.25.03

**Department:** Office of the City Manager

**Division:** Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre

**Subject:** **SRCM.25.03 – York University Memorandum of Understanding**

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction on a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with York University. The proposed MOU establishes a framework for the parties to work collaboratively to explore future partnerships within areas of shared interest.

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

- a) That staff report SRCM.25.03 be received; and,
- b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with York University at the recommendation of the City Manager.

### **Contact Person(s):**

- Anthony Ierullo, Director, Richmond Hill Centre and Economic Development Ext. 6515
- Darlene Joslin, City Manager, Ext. 2423

### **Report Approval:**

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:**

York University (York) is a top international teaching and research university and a driving force for positive change in York Region. York's main campus is located in Toronto, but it recently opened a new campus in York Region to better serve the region's growing post-secondary needs. The City has a long history of welcoming York graduates and faculty to our community including a number of active economic development partnerships centred around research and entrepreneurial support.

To further strengthen these partnerships, staff has been negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with York that further supports and acknowledges opportunities for collaboration in the following priority areas, among other areas:

- Collaboration for the development of research and capstone projects between the City of Richmond Hill and York faculty and students;
- Experiential learning opportunities at the City of Richmond Hill for York students in areas of mutual benefit, that are intended to provide increased access to talent for the City;
- Professional development and training opportunities for staff within the City of Richmond Hill;
- Support for local economic development initiatives;
- Special projects as identified by the parties and agreed to as part of the implementation process;
- Community Education in areas mutually agreed to by the parties; and,
- Collaboration on entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives to contribute to the region's knowledge-based economy.

### **Discussion:**

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for the parties to work collaboratively to explore future partnerships within the areas of shared interest with the understanding that all future projects must be approved and funded by Council. The non-binding, non-exclusive MOU declares that the Parties intend to use their best efforts to collaborate and work together where possible, but does not create or constitute any legally binding obligations by or between the Parties. The Parties will strive to identify priorities and develop appropriate joint action plans where appropriate.

Staff are working with York with the intent that the MOU could be executed at a signing Ceremony with the President and Vice Chancellor of York University (Rhonda Lenton) in early February 2025. It is recommended that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the MOU with the York University (Attachment 1) to support the advancement of the City's initiatives at the recommendation of the City Manager.

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### **Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications of this report. It is expected that all future projects and partnerships with York University that result from the MOU will be approved and funded by Council.

### **Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:**

The execution of an MOU with York provides a framework for future collaboration and partnerships that could support the implementation of the Strategic Plan across all three Pillars. York University and staff will work collaboratively to identify opportunities to partner on initiatives.

### **Attachments:**

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. All attachments have been reviewed and made accessible. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1 - Draft York University Memorandum of Understanding

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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.25.03 - YorkU MOU.docx
Attachments:	- SRCM.25.03 - Attachment 1.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jan 8, 2025

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

**Anthony Ierullo - Jan 7, 2025 - 2:27 PM**

**Darlene Joslin - Jan 8, 2025 - 7:44 AM**