



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
June 3, 2019

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u></p> <p>Andrew Yu, Chair</p> <p>Edward Choi</p> <p>Sabat Ismail</p> <p>Sujane Kandasamy</p> <p>Harmony Law</p> <p>Nayani Nandakumar</p> <p>Maggie Quirt</p> <p><u>Guest</u></p> <p>Alicia Lauzon, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist, York Regional Police</p> <p>Detective Mark Topping, York Regional Police</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</p> <p>Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Co-ordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u></p> <p>Rina George-Alexander</p> <p>Devendra Mishra</p> <p>Faiz Mohyuddin</p> <p>Arul Rajasingam</p> <p>Surinder Razdan</p> <p>Herleen Sayal</p> <p>Councillor Isa Lee</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:08 pm without quorum and with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Andrew Yu welcomed Detective Mark Topping and Alicia Lauzon, from York Regional Police, to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the meetings of the Markham Race Relations Committee held on February 4, 2019, March 4, 2019, April 1, 2019 and May 6, 2019

As there was no quorum, adoption of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

4. York Regional Police Presentation

Detective Mark Topping of the York Region Police Hate Crime Unit gave a presentation on Hate Motivated Crime. He provided background information to York Regional Police's (YRP) community outreach based approach to providing service to Markham, perhaps Canada's most diverse city. YRP has a dedicated investigative unit and specially-trained hate crime investigators at each district to assist officers in investigations where hate may

have played a part. Team members are also called upon as subject matter experts to provide training to partner agencies, community and school groups on effectively combating hate. In addition, YRP has an Equity and Inclusion Specialist who focuses on inclusive strategies and program evaluation. The Diversity and Cultural Resources Unit builds bridges and develops partnerships with the diverse communities of York Region and educates members about the many different cultures York Regional Police serves.

Detective Mark Topping addressed the United Nations Human Rights Charter and the Ontario Human Rights Code which prohibit actions that discriminate against people based on a protected ground in a protected social area. He advised that Canada has no Federal definition of a hate crime but Ontario uses this definition: *a criminal offence committed against a person or property perceived to be motivated by the suspect's hatred or prejudice based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical ability*. He discussed hate motivated crimes resulting from environmental factors such as class, war, or disease; physiology factors such as gender, gender identification or race; or anthropology factors such as ethnicity, culture, heritage or religion. Motivation for hate motivated incidents may be greed, jealousy, prejudice, vengeance or hate. Hate speech is denigrating, demonizing, dehumanizing, or vilifying. The criminal code includes hate propaganda as advocating genocide, public indictment of hatred, or willful promotion of hatred.

YRP focuses on hate crime prevention, sharing information and keeping informed on local, national and international levels. The Hate Crime Unit and, Diversity and Cultural resource officers are always fostering community engagement relationships within the community. In general terms, Markham experiences a similar number of hate crime incidents as other cities in York Region. Committee members discussed aspects of promoting differences and diversity. The Committee found it interesting to note that hate motivation is not a crime in itself, but rather it is reflected in the sentencing for the crime, such as assault, that was committed.

Chair Andrew Yu thanked Detective Mark Topping for bringing his presentation to the Committee.

5. Markham Human Resources Update

No report was available.

6. Race Relations Business

- **Community Virtual Feedback Session feedback analysis**

No report was available.

- **Vision for the RRC going forward**

No report was available.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Ontario Room.

8. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.