



## RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**February 6, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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<b><i>Attendance:</i></b>	
<u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Nayani Nandakumar, Vice Chair Satya Arora Edward Choi Madge Logan Jas Atwal Danielle Russell Councillor Isa Lee Claudette Rutherford	<u>Regrets</u> Faiz Mohyuddin Hamza Sivanathan Suat Kenar Mohamad Mtairek Sujane Kandasamy  Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police
<u>Staff</u>  Jamaal Kossy, Staff Liaison (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist) Jessica Ketwaroo-Green, Staff Liaison (Diversity Equity and Inclusion Specialist) Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator	

### **1. Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Race Relations Committee meeting convened at 6:08 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair. The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.

The Committee extended gratitude for living in Markham and acknowledged that not everyone is as lucky. Members reflected and sent positive thoughts and prayers to those affected by the earthquake in Turkey.

### **2. Adoption of the February 6, 2023, agenda.**

**Moved by:** Satya Arora  
**Seconded by:** Jas Atwal

That the February 6, 2023 Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from January 9, 2023.**

**Moved by:** Satya Arora

**Seconded by:** Edward Choi

That the January 9, 2023, Race Relations Committee Minutes be adopted.

**4. Business Related to Previous Minutes**

There was no business to the previous minutes.

**5. Committee and Sub-Committee Updates**

- **Many Faces of Markham**

The Committee discussed the progress to date for the event and re-confirmed that the theme is, Your Markham, Allyship in the Fight Against Racism. The project action items, categories, communications, judging will be documented in a project timeline and shared with Committee members.

Jamaal advised that Many Faces of Markham (MFOM) will launch on March 21, 2023, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The City's Corporate Communications department will assist with the creation of a poster.

Madge Logan stressed the significance of this event and the importance of reaching everyone in the community. Further details on whether the event will take place in-person or virtually will be provided by Jamaal and Jessica in the coming days.

**6. New Business/Other**

- ***Data Deliverables and Metrics for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Anti-Black Racism Strategy***

Jamaal Kossy will provide information, budget allocations and an action plan in this regard at the next meeting. He indicated that there is a plan to have a launch event for a black business directory.

The Committee discussed updates in relation to the DEI plan, Anti Black Racism Plan, and quantifiable data deliverables such as hiring of Black and Indigenous members of the community to ensure accountability and transparency within these initiatives. It was suggested that the Terms of Reference Committee submit changes that incorporate key performance indicators and benchmarks to ensure that opportunities for success are maximized.

There was a brief discussion regarding the name of the Race Relations Committee and whether it is still appropriate and representative of the Committee's objectives.

- ***Black North Initiative***

Claudette Rutherford, addressed the Committee and provided information regarding this newly formed group that was established after the murder of George Floyd. She noted that influential Black leaders are members of the group

and have been raising money to help more black families to be homeowners through an application bridge process. The Region of Peel has pledged funding towards this initiative and inquired if the City or York Region is able to also provide support. It was further indicated that 360 Kids is affiliated with this organization.

The Committee made the following inquiries:

- Whether this initiative has been communicated to Members of Council;
- The opportunities for the City to participate with this organization;
- The significance of equity and how funding can be allocated; and,
- The intersectionality between the City's housing strategy, inclusion of mixed housing, and members of the community with this type of initiative.

It was suggested that a member of the Race Relations Committee reach out to the organization and locate the proposal that was sent to other participating municipalities to evaluate the participation options and later connect with Councillor Lee and the Committee with the additional information to establish any next steps.

▪ ***Succession Planning***

The Chair suggested that there be support for an incoming Chair as his term is coming to an end. Staff will provide information on the election of the new Chair and recruitment of new members.

▪ ***Announcements***

The Committee provided information on the following events and initiatives:

- Black History Month event, York Region Alliance Black History Month Event on Feb 18, 2023. <https://yorkregionaacc.ca/home/events>
- City of Markham, Fire Services Scholarship with Humber College, for racialized youth.
- Claudette Rutherford, announced that she is co-writing a book with Dr. George Dei entitled, Educating Against Anti-Black and Anti-African Racism and that the first chapter is published in, <https://canadianscholars.ca/book/social-justice-education-in-canada/>.

**7. Next Official Meeting Date: Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM**

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved By:** Madge Logan

**Seconded By:** Danielle Russell

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 7:18 PM.