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Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2024 10:44 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Written Submission to General Committee Meeting of 8 October 2024: Terms of Reference - Race Relations Committee

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To Members of Council:

I am pleased to learn that the Revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Markham Race Relations Advisory Committee (RRC) is now presented to City Council for final approval.

As Chair of the RRC from October 2018 to April 2021, I recall that initial work towards revising the TOR began many years ago, following the recognition that updating the TOR would allow the RRC to be more effective in fulfilling its mandated role of providing Council with timely and informed recommendations that reflect Markham community perspectives. The proposed TOR, as presented by City staff, is the cumulative fruit of this diligent process involving thorough consultation, deliberation and consideration.

The "Member Responsibility" section in the proposed TOR deserves special mention, as it formalizes expectations that have always guided the RRC, such as "Each Member is an independent representative to the Committee and does not represent the concerns of only one group. The members shall work together for the purpose of developing a reasonable and practical common approach in a respectful and non-partisan manner". Throughout my tenure in the RRC, this was how all members participated in the committee, laying the foundation of RRC accomplishments over the years. Having these expectations made explicit assures Council that advice made by the RRC will remain objective, balanced and inclusive in the future, as it has been and is now.

Therefore, I ask that Council accept the recommendations by City staff and approve the TOR as presented. Thank you.

Andrew Yu