



## RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

June 4, 2018

### MINUTES

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| <b>Attendance:</b>   |   |
| <u>Committee</u><br>Astra Josie Rose, Chair<br>Andrew Yu, Vice Chair<br>Nayani Nandakumar<br>Arul Rajasingam<br>Harmony Law<br>Faiz Mohyuddin<br>Sujane Kandasamy<br>Surinder Razdan<br>Maggie Quirt<br>Edward Choi<br><i>Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</i> | <u>Regrets</u><br>Sabat Ismail<br>Devendra Mishra<br>Nayani Nandakumar<br>Regional Councillor Joe Li<br>Rina George-Alexander<br>Sara Siddiqui<br>Councillor Logan Kanapathi<br>Herleen Sayal |
| <u>Guest</u><br>Abid Mirza, Election Officer   |   |
| <u>Staff</u><br>Anna Lee, Committee Co-ordinator   |   |

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:05 PM with Astra Josie Rose presiding as Chair.

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

Chair Astra Josie Rose welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Faiz Mohyuddin

Seconded by Arul Rajasingam

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meetings held on May 7, 2018 be adopted.

Carried

#### **4. Election Office – Outreach Program for Markham Election in October**

- Abid Mirza, Communications Officer, shared updates and asked for feedback on communicating about the Markham Election in October to the public. Committee discussed the need for having communications in diverse languages and in different sources for greatest outreach potential.

#### **5. Markham Human Resources Update**

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Staff Liaison provided an update on the following topics:

- Will connect with Abid Mirza on Outreach Program for Markham Election in October.
- Aboriginal Day – June 21<sup>st</sup> – Flag raising at 10AM. Committee members are welcome to attend.
- Today's (June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Indigenous Month Launch at the Markham Civic Centre in the Great Hall went well.
- Terms of Reference – Last draft Laura and Cheryl reviewed is with the Clerks. Clerks and Committee will receive it for review and feedback.
- Many faces of Markham – Decision to use the Markham theatre for this event must be made. The budget included borrowing the theatre, so they may reevaluate the budget if the theatre is not used. Alternative is to hold event in schools, as the Open House.
- Community Awards – Josie will connect with Cheryl to discuss.

#### **6. Race Relations Business**

##### **A. Race Relations Committee Work Plan**

- Diversity Training – Discussion of updating the Markham Diversity website. What needs to be included on the page. Josie and Cheryl to connect with Andrea Bering about this.
- Need clarification on what an Advisory Committee is and the scope that they have.
- Community Awards - October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 – Josie will check to confirm Mayor's attendance.
- Milliken Mills Children's Festival on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Aaniin community Centre & Library. Ideas on how the committee can participate in this event.
- Indigenous Events – Committee to partner with the City Indigenous events.
- Organizing avenues to have conversations with different communities in Markham to create communication channels.
- Human Rights Conference – Discuss theme and how to celebrate the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights signing's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Many Faces of Markham – Decision needs to be made on the date, theme and location of the event.

**7. Approval of Terms of Reference Letter**

Moved by Surinder Razdan

Seconded by Faiz Mohyuddin

That Surinder will draft a letter to Council asking for clarification on the Terms of Reference update and deadline.

Carried

**8. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:00PM in the Ontario Room.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by Arul Rajasingam

Seconded by Andrew Yu

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:07PM.

Carried