



**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE
CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
January 6, 2014, 7:00pm**

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Osman Akhtar Moises Calo Rina George-Alexander Grace Permaul Dr. Maggie Quirt Jacqueline Sang Barbara Tate</p> <p><u>Council</u> Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Carla Crooks Bobbie France Vilvan Gunasingham Saad Omar Khan Si Ming (Steven) Lu Ramon Solis Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</p>
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1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:05 p.m. with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair. He wished best wishes for the New Year to all and welcomed new members Osman Akhtar, Grace Permaul, Dr. Maggie Quirt, and Jacqueline Sang, and introductions were performed.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013.

It was

Moved by: Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by: Barbara Tate

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on November 4, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. RACE RELATIONS BUSINESS

A. GENERAL

For the benefit of the new members, Chair Darius Sookram reviewed principal matters considered by the Committee.

In recognition of March 21st, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Markham hosts the “Many Faces of Markham” event, which the Race Relations Committee has helped organize for a number of years.

CMARD is the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination, part of a larger international network of municipalities working together to combat discrimination in their communities. Member municipalities pass resolutions to address 10 Common Commitments, divided into three areas: 1) as a guardian of the public interest; 2) as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights; 3) as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity. The Committee is undertaking many CMARD anti-racism activities.

The Committee receives regular reports from Markham staff on Markham’s Diversity Action Plan, initiatives to strengthen Markham’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Finally, Committee members are encouraged to share ideas and articles about diversity, human rights and race relations issues.

B. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

Organized by the Race Relations Committee, the Many Faces of Markham event is an annual celebration featuring an art and video competition for students across Markham as well as a show featuring local performers and the competition winners. The funding for this event is provided by the City of Markham’s Human Resource department. The Committee has selected the following theme for the 2014 Concert: “Journey to Markham: *Past, Present and Future*”. Corporate Communications has been asked to develop a poster representing the 2014 theme.

A list of tasks to be completed for the Many Faces of Markham event was distributed and it was advised that the tasks soon need to be assigned to Committee members. The document will be updated and circulated to the Committee by email. It is very important to decide quickly on a guest speaker for the concert.

Information packages that have been prepared to be distributed to schools were distributed to Committee members for information purposes.

5. RACE RELATIONS BUSINESS

Chair Darius Sookram reported that the committee has been considering holding a one-day CMRD conference. Attendance at CMARD Conferences typically includes the Commissioner of Human Rights; representatives from CMARD; representatives from municipal diversity/race relations committees; community groups; and government representatives; Topics of discussion may include matters pertaining to human rights (e.g. affordable housing and human rights).

6. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

The Diversity Action Plan was deferred to the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Name Discussion

Chair Darius Sookram reviewed previous discussions about whether to include the word “race” or “diversity” in the name of the Committee. Another discussion about possible names will be scheduled for the February meeting.

B. Information Sharing

No report was provided.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee is scheduled for February 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by	Moises Calo

That the Race Relations Committee meeting adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Carried