

**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012
CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
September 10, 2012, 7:00pm**

MINUTES

<p><u>Attendance:</u></p> <p><u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Bobbie France Ramon Solis Liliana Soengas Councillor Alan Ho Vilvan Gunasingham Saad Omar Khan Rina George-Alexander Carla Crooks Samil Chagpar Moises Calo Barbara Tate</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resource Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Darshika Patel, Committee Clerk</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li</p>
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1. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:02 PM with Ms. Astra Josie Rose presiding as Vice Chair
The Vice Chair welcomed the new members to the committee and thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2012.

Moved by Ramon Solis
Seconded by Liliana Soengas

That the minutes of the Town of Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on June 4, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved by Samil Chagpar
Seconded by Saad Omar Khan

That Language and Diversity be added as agenda item number 7. A under New Business.

CARRIED

4. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. CMARD update; Open: 3Q10

Mr. Vilvan Gunasingham provided background information on CMARD (Coalition of Municipalities against Race and Discrimination) to the new members. Many of the initiatives listed in the Race Relations Workplan, which was developed over the summer, incorporated many CMARD objectives. The City's contact at CMARD is aware that Markham is interested in holding this conference.

B. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, provided a brief background on the Diversity Action Plan. She informed the committee that a related presentation was given to council earlier this year and an executive level training session on diversity took place this summer. Some of the recommendations in the plan include recognizing south east Markham and forming a senior's committee. Also, In line with the Diversity Action plan, the city has created a list of languages spoken by internal staff members that can assist with visitors to the civic centre. Currently, Human Resource clerks are collecting data to determine whether City of Markham receives applications from various diverse groups in order to develop employment policy.

5. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

A. Election of Chair or Co-Chairs

The election of chair and/or co-chairs will be discussed at the next meeting. Members may express their interest in this position by notifying the Chair and Vice-Chair of Race Relation.

B. Theme

The theme of the event will be further discussed at the next meeting. Members can submit their ideas to the Vice Chair.

C. Keynote Speaker/Activity

Many Faces of Markham committee members will get in touch with the former chairs for information on the previous events.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

During the summer, discussions were held to determine the formation of subcommittees. Mr. Ramon Solis will chair the Finance and Budget subcommittee and the Ms. Astra Josie Rose will chair the Visibility subcommittee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Language and Diversity

Committee members discussed possible resolutions to a situation in a community swim class where a person felt isolated due to other students speaking a language other than English.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on October 1, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Saad Omar Khan

Seconded by Ramon Solis

That the Race Relations Committee meeting adjourn at 8:40 PM.

CARRIED