



City of Hamilton
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON TRANSPARENCY, ACCESS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
AGENDA

Meeting #: 24-001
Date: January 15, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall (hybrid) (RM)
71 Main Street West

Jessica Versace, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext.3993

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - 5.1 December 3, 2024
6. **DELEGATIONS**
7. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
 - 7.1 Lyndon George, Executive Director of the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre, respecting the Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability

Recommendation: Be received
8. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
 - 8.1 Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability Work Plan (to be distributed)

9. MOTIONS
10. NOTICES OF MOTION
11. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
12. ADJOURNMENT



MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON TRANSPARENCY, ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES 24-010

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor (Hybrid)
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: J. Santucci (Co-Chair), M. Stewart (Co-Chair), M. Verhovsek (virtual) and T. Wingfield

Also Present: L. Kolar, Legislative Coordinator
K. Martin, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
J. Shea, Director, Public Affairs, Enterprise Canada
J. Strutt, Senior Project Manager – Public Engagement
J. Versace, Legislative Assistant

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION:

FOR INFORMATION:

Mark Stewart, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. A land acknowledgement was read into the record.

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised the Task Force of the following change to the agenda:

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 Correspondence from Jim Schoenhardt, respecting Transparency, Access and Accountability

Recommendation: Be received.

- 4.2 Stephanie & Brent Card, Kimberlee & Steve Hallmark and Jennifer & Brett Gallant, respecting Transparency in Planning Processes

Recommendation: Be received

5. DELEGATION REQUESTS

5.1 Delegations respecting Feedback on How to Increase Transparency, Accountability, and Access Within the City of Hamilton

- (a) Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario
- (b) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre
- (c) Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance
- (d) Kojo Dampsey
- (e) Nancy Smith

(Wingfield/Verhovsek)

That the agenda for the December 3, 2024 Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability meeting be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

(c) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) November 19, 2024 (Item 3.1)

(Santucci/Wingfield)

That the Minutes of November 19, 2024 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

(Santucci/Wingfield)

That the following Communications Items, be received:

- (i) Correspondence from Jim Schoenhardt, respecting Transparency, Access and Accountability (Added Item 5.1)
- (ii) Stephanie & Brent Card, Kimberlee & Steve Hallmark and Jennifer & Brett Gallant, respecting Transparency in Planning Processes (Added Item 5.2)

CARRIED

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 5)

(i) Delegations Requests respecting Feedback on How to Increase Transparency, Accountability, and Access Within the City of Hamilton

(Wingfield/Santucci)

That the following Delegation Requests be approved for today's meeting:

1. Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario
2. Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre
3. Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance
4. Kojo Dampsey
5. Nancy Smith

CARRIED

(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Delegations respecting Feedback on How to Increase Transparency, Accountability, and Access Within the City of Hamilton (Added Item 6.1)

1. The following delegates addressed the Task Force respecting Transparency, Access and Accountability:
 - (a) Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario
 - (b) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre
 - (c) Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance
 - (d) Kojo Dampsey
 - (e) Nancy Smith

2. (Wingfield/Verhovsek)

That the following delegates respecting Feedback on How to Increase Transparency, Accountability, and Access Within the City of Hamilton, be received

- (a) Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario
- (b) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre
- (c) Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance
- (d) Kojo Dampsey
- (e) Nancy Smith

CARRIED

(f) DISCUSSION ITEM (Item 9)

(i) Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability Work Plan Update (Item 9.1)

That Task Force members discussed the Work Plan.

(Verhovsek/Santucci)

That the Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability Work Plan Update, be received.

CARRIED

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 14)

(Santucci/Wingfield)

There being no further business, the Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access and Accountability be adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark John Stewart, Co-Chair
Mayor's Task Force on Transparency,
Access and Accountability

Joanne Santucci, Co-Chair
Mayor's Task Force on Transparency,
Access and Accountability

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

From: [Kolar, Loren](#)
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: Correspondence GEORGE HAARC to MTFTAA
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:47:53 AM

From: Lyndon George <lyndon@harrc.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:50 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Mark John Stewart <mark@flyprint.ca>
Subject: written report -Mayor's Taskforce

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Clerk,

I'm Lyndon George, Executive Director of the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre and I am writing to request the following for inclusion in the Mayor's task force on transparency, access, and accountability.

My work Address: 1 James St. N, Hamilton, ON

Phone #: [REDACTED]

Mayors Taskforce for Transparency, access and accountability

At HARRC, we regularly hear from individuals who face discrimination in schools, workplaces, and public spaces. Their experiences paint a clear picture: racism is not an abstract issue; it is a daily reality that undermines trust in our institutions.

This distrust is compounded when people feel excluded from decision making processes or when the mechanisms for addressing their concerns are vague and inaccessible.

One of the most pressing challenges is the lack of accessible avenues for racialized residents to voice their concerns safely and effectively.

How can we expect individuals to report inequities if they fear their voices are ignored?

How can we rebuild trust when communities feel that their concerns are met with silence or inaction?

When communities are left in the dark about how decisions are made about who gets resources, whose voices are prioritized, and how accountability is ensured, the gap between governance and the people it serves grows wider. A perfect example is just this past week members of the city's own committee against racism were left seeking answers as to why their volunteer advisory committee was recommended to be disbanded without being connected to a staff liaison.

The Mayor's Task Force has a unique and powerful opportunity to set a new standard for governance in Hamilton. We can begin to dismantle systemic barriers with communities that have felt excluded for far too long.

Another example is advocating for greater transparency regarding how the Hamilton Police Service selects its community advisory panels is essential to fostering trust. The city of Hamilton should urge HPS to follow the city's new citizen selection process for the police service board and allow applicants who have concerns with sharing sensitive personal information with the police to submit applications through the city of Hamilton and not HPS. Racialized and marginalized communities, who often experience over-policing or systemic inequities, need assurance that these panels genuinely represent their voices and concerns.

Without transparency, skepticism arises about whether the panels are diverse, impartial, or adequately engaged with the broader community's needs.

Lyndon George

Executive Director, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre

Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC)

McMaster Continuing Education Centre

1 James St. N, Room 106

Hamilton, ON, L8P 1A1

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