



# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Audit, Finance & Administration Committee
<b>From:</b>	Roger Cameron Committee Against Racism _____
<b>Date:</b>	September 14, 2015
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Committee Against Racism - Establishment of a Lincoln Alexander Day Planning Committee (CAR15001)</b>

## RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the formation of a new volunteer advisory committee under the name, Lincoln Alexander Day Planning Committee, whose main function will be to organize a yearly event to honour Lincoln Alexander Day (January 21<sup>st</sup> of each year), be approved in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached as Appendix "A" to Report CAR15001;
- (b) That a budget of \$5,000 be approved in order to fund the event for the first year with subsequent years' budgets and work plans approval to be predicated on the achievement of identified success measures which are to be presented to Council each year; and
- (c) That the draft work plan and draft budget, attached as Appendix "B" to Report CAR15001, be received.

## BACKGROUND:

Considering that Lincoln Alexander was a distinguished public figure who made significant contributions to and proudly represented Hamilton, the Committee Against Racism is recommending that the City of Hamilton host an annual event to commemorate Lincoln Alexander Day (January 21). The Committee Against Racism is also respectfully recommending that Council approve a separate and newly appointed committee, The Lincoln Alexander Day Planning Committee to plan and implement the event. The Lincoln Alexander Day Planning Committee will be responsible for organizing, planning and reporting on the event each year.

The event will include entertainment, presentations and an educational component that will highlight the significance and the accomplishments of the late Honourable Lincoln Alexander, as well as, that of local members of the Black community including other community members who have been inspired to achieve and contribute to the development of Hamilton and Canada.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

The Honourable Lincoln Alexander was a prominent Canadian and Hamiltonian with a strong interest in social justice and was well-known for his fight for racial equity. Perhaps Lincoln Alexander's most well-known achievement was his career in politics in which he was Canada's first Black Member of Parliament for Hamilton West and served in this position for four terms. In 1985, he became Ontario's first Black Lieutenant Governor.

Some of Lincoln Alexander's notable endeavours and honours include:

- Corporal in Royal Canadian Air Force
- BA in History and Political Economy
- LL.B.
- Lawyer
- Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament
- Minister of Labour
- Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board of Ontario
- Chairman of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation
- Chancellor of the University of Guelph
- Order of Canada
- Order of Ontario
- Recipient of six honorary doctorates
- Lifetime Achievement Award by Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
- Reverend John C. Holland Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Government of Ontario Award for Outstanding Achievement in Human Rights
- Hamilton Gallery of Distinction
- Canadian Armed Forces Decoration (CD)
- Voted Greatest Hamiltonian Ever (Hamilton Spectator)

Public spaces named after Lincoln Alexander are:

- Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway
- OPP headquarters in Orillia
- Lincoln M. Alexander Public School in Hamilton
- Lincoln M. Alexander Public School in Ajax
- Lincoln M. Alexander Secondary School in Mississauga
- Alexander Pavilion at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton

While Lincoln Alexander paved the way for members of the Black community as well as other racialized communities, he serves as an inspiration to everyone across the country. His numerous achievements and contributions to Hamilton should be celebrated and honoured.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report CAR15001

Appendix "B" to Report CAR15001