



Hamilton

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Lloyd Ferguson, Councillor – Ward 12
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Email: Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca

Feb. 17, 2016

Nicolas Lloreda Ricaurte
Ambassador of the Republic of Columbia
360 Albert St., Suite 1002
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Ambassador Lloreda

Further to my message to your office last week, I wish to publically apologize for the remarks I made regarding my trip to the South American country a dozen years ago. They were not intended to be hurtful to the Canadian/Columbian community.

I take pride in the business acumen I bring to Council and during our budget meeting, I let my personal impressions on my visit get in the way of a serious debate on public transit for the City of Hamilton. We have always benchmarked ourselves in the area of public transportation on similar municipalities like Calgary Alberta, Charlotte North Carolina and Portland Oregon. The populations and demographics of these communities mirror those of Hamilton. When comparisons were used for the city of Bogotá, with a population of eight million, it was then I reacted the way I did and referenced my personal experiences rather than the demographic differences based on population, climate and geography.

I look forward to moving forward with my Council duties and the continuing 2016 Budget Deliberations along with working closely with staff as we face the challenges around public transportation, other infrastructure projects and social services in the City of Hamilton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lloyd Ferguson".

Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor, Ward 12

From: CARLOS VASQUEZ

Sent: Fri 2016-02-19 5:10 PM

To: Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>;

Cc: Consul Embajada <consul@embajadacolombia.ca>; Miguel Castro <mcastro@embajadacolombia.ca>; german.herrera@cancilleria.gov.co; CONSULADO EN TORONTO (CANADA) <ctoronto@cancilleria.gov.co>; DL - Council Only <dlcouncilonly@hamilton.ca>; Matthew Van Dongen <mvandongen@thespec.com>; Ken Mann <kmann@900chml.com>;

Dear Councillor Ferguson,

Thank you for copying me in email form on the letter that you sent to our Colombian's Ambassador Nicolás Lloreda. As a follow up to this and our meeting last week, and also as a representative of the Colombian Refugee Association, I would like to share a copy of the letter with others if it is the full and final apology from you. When we met last week, you had indicated that you would share a draft of the letter first prior to issuing. Is this the only correspondence you will have on this matter or is this a draft as you had stated you would share? If this was the draft we would like to discuss the content and wording with you and suggest changes before it is issued in a public forum. We acknowledge that the letter was shared in email form to media outlets, but are still wondering if there will be a public statement from you issued along with it.

If that letter is not the draft and that is the actual public apology letter, we like to know if you have started the delegation to council process as stated as the second request stated in the document you took from our meeting at Homegrown Coffee last week. We are looking forward to sharing the success of both the Colombian community abroad, and also the community building efforts that we are involved in locally.

I look forward to continued collaboration to resolve this matter in a way that benefits the entire community.

Best regards,

Carlos Vasquez
COLOMBIAN REFUGEES ASSOCIATION
President
C: 289.700.6341
Info@colombianrefugees.ca
www.colombianrefugees.ca

February 10th, 2016

COLOMBIA

Points to talk

- Bogota was a model of a presentation at the consul annual meeting
- Councillor statement was based on visit 12 years ago and also based on an American movie
- Colombians are in suffered fight/war for more than 50+ years
- Councillor statement can generalize communities and leave room for others use same behaviors
- Local communities are involved, represent and are acting on behalf
- Councillor has not given an apology

We demand

- Committee demands a public apology from Councillor and to be release from his office
- Committee demands an invitation to next Council meeting, where Councillor retracts all statements/comments from previous meeting in front of media.
- Committee demands an active participation from Councillor, in all initiative where representing Colombian community locally, regionally or nationally

Councillor will

Participant's signature
