



Hamilton

**- MINUTES -**

**COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM**

**Tuesday September 13, 2011, 6:30 p.m.  
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192**

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**Present:** Nerene Virgin, Roger Cameron, Tyrone Childs, Yim Chung, Amirah Hassan, Mimoza Kajtazi, Ashok Kumar, Winston Morrison, Joe Rhodes, Taimur Qasim, Baldeep Virk, Zafar Siddiqui, Jessica Brennan

**Also Present:** Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak, Jaffar Hayat - City of Hamilton, Brian McHattie

**Regrets:** Wael Ghuneim, Ismail Baris Oz

**Absent:**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

All were welcomed

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

None declared

**3. Review of Agenda.**

Addition of item 9.3 "Report on meeting with new Fire Chief".

**J. Brennan /A. Kumar**

To accept the agenda as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**4. Approval of Minutes July 26, 2011.**

Review of minutes

**W. Morrison/Z. Siddiqui**

That the Committee Against Racism July 26, 2011 minutes be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED.**

**5. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

Matters arising.

**5.1 Michael Dixon**

The article on Michael Dixon which was published in The Spectator on September 8, 2011 was shared with all the participants. Committee members expressed appreciation that The Spectator published the article. M. Carter informed committee that Michael Dixon expressed his satisfaction regarding the article and his desire for the public to know about the details regarding his case.

Roger Cameron also mentioned that the feedback from the public to him regarding the article has been very favourable.

Committee asked M. Carter to invite M. Dixon to a future CAR meeting.

**5.2 AM 640 CKMJ Transcript**

Councillor McHattie updated committee on this issue, and explained that CRTC will not disclose the complaint on behalf of a third party, therefore T. Childs as the first party would have to make the complaint himself. In future members were advised that they have to be more vigilant and record the name, date and time of any such event before bringing it to the attention of CRTC.

**5.3 Hamilton Spectator’s Diversity Initiative**

Roger Cameron informed members that Paul Berton, of The Spectator has assigned a reporter to work on a new Diversity Initiative where some of the focus will be on diversity, racism and hate crimes. The reporter will be contacting CAR members to provide input regarding the types of stories and articles that will be covered. Councillor McHattie commented that the meeting with Paul Berton was a very positive meeting.

**5.4 HPS- Hate Crimes Report**

Staff will invite Hamilton Police Services Hate Crime Officer to come to either the October or November, 2011 meeting to discuss the Hate Crimes Report and the program at HPS.

**6. Work Plan Review.**

**6.1 Formalize sub-committees and members selection**

M. Carter explained that in the July meeting of CAR, members recommended to have three sub committees instead of four. She asked that members who have not signed up for a committee to do so when she circulates the list by email.

The first sub-committee meeting will be held on September 27, 2011 following the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**6.2 Priority Issues**

M. Carter also informed the members that they do have a couple of outstanding items. The outstanding items are:

- Feasibility report regarding the Resource Centre
- Awareness Campaign – “ What should a racism free City look like”

Committee referred these priority issues to the Sub-committees agendas.

**7. Provincial Elections- discussion**

N. Virgin briefed members about the role that the media plays in the election specifically the last provincial elections.

She therefore requested that CAR members attend any political debates and members should ask questions why concerning the absence of diverse candidates in all Hamilton ridings.

The committee moved to form an ad-hoc group comprising of at least four members to develop questions to be asked during upcoming debates.

**J. Brennan / M. Kajtazi**

An adhoc committee be struck to develop questions that can be asked during political debates regarding lack of demographic representation in the political parties and discrimination.

**CARRIED.**

Those members are Yim Chung, Jessica Brennan, Nerene Virgin and Joe Rhodes who will develop the questions and submit these questions by Monday September 19, 2011.

**8.0 New Business.**

**8.1 Volunteer Orientation – New Section insert**

M. Carter distributed the updated information to be inserted in the volunteer orientation handbook.

**8.2 Housing and Homelessness Action Plan**

M. Carter shared a letter from the Housing and Homelessness division requesting an opportunity to meet with CAR members so that they can provide input regarding gaps in the system and how the Action Plan can be more informed regarding reaching racialized diverse communities so that they can provide input and feedback to the project advisory committee. Staff to invite a representative to the October meeting.

**8.3 Report on meeting with new Fire Chief**

T. Childs submitted a report to the committee regarding the meeting with the new Fire Chief Simonds with respect to a more representative recruiting and hiring process for new Fire Fighters. Currently the Fire Department is canvassing in Wards 2 & 3 to raise awareness regarding fire prevention. According to Chief Simonds, the recruiting process will take place in March 2012 and he has started to put in place a variety of new measures to increase the reach into diverse ethno racial and ethno cultural communities. He explained briefly that the recruiting process will be comprised of Multiple Mini Interviews that looks at a number of areas including values, compassion, caring and putting others need first as part of criteria.

The Chief expressed his interest to consult with the committee and with the Access & Equity Co-ordinator to look at the process including the test questions. He also shared the ideas that Ken Stone shared with him regarding a more bias free inclusive hiring process.

**T.Childs/J. Rhodes**

A motion was moved to accept the Fire Chief's report, as presented.

**CARRIED.**

**9. Information Sharing.**

9.1 Commemoration of the burning of "Hindu Samaj Temple" events were shared.

A. Kumar informed the committee that the ceremony will be held on September 11, 2011 12 noon at City Hall. The second event will be held on September 18, 2011 6 p.m. at the Hindu Samaj.

**9.2 Gandhi Peace Festival**

A. Kumar informed committee that the Gandhi Peace Festival will be held in October again this year.

**9.3 J. Rhodes/A. Kumar**

That Evelyn Myrie, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion to be invited to the November 2011 meeting to make a presentation with respect to the work of the organization.

**Carried.**

**10. Adjournment.**

**J. Brennan/A. Hassan**

- o Next meeting date will be on September 27, 2011.