

4.1

Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

If your request is for a specific committee meeting, this form must be received by NOON the day before the scheduled committee meeting. Requests for Monday meetings must be received by NOON the Friday before the meeting. Requests for meetings scheduled for the day after a statutory holiday must be received by NOON the last business day before the meeting. For summer meeting requests (July/August), please contact the City Clerk's Office at (905) 546-4408 for further information.

Committee Requested

Kindly indicate which Committee: *

Emergency & Community Services

If you selected Advisory/Sub-Committee from the above list, please indicate name of Committee:

Requestor Information

Name of Individual: * Maria Antelo

Name of Organization: Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Contact Number: * 905-527-4572 extension 23

Email Address: * m_antelo@lao.on.ca

Mailing Address: * 100 Main Street East #203 Hamilton L8N 3W4

Reason(s) for delegation request: * Support the idea of immigrants and refugees having access to services in Hamilton as suggested in motion to be presented by Councillor McHattie.

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?*

Yes

No

Are you a lobbyist ?

Yes

No

(The information collected for the Lobbyist registry system was implemented by City Council in 2004 and the information provided is on a voluntary basis.)

If your answer is Yes to the lobbyist question, who are you representing? :

Requests to speak to Council are forwarded to the Committee for consideration. Once considered by Committee, and approved, you will be notified of the date for your presentation.

This form is not for the purpose of presenting unsolicited proposals by Vendors to Committee. Such proposals are subject to a competitive process as required by the City's Purchasing Policy.

The City makes a video record of Committee and Council meetings. If you make a presentation to a Committee, the City will be video recording you and will make the recording public by publishing the recording on the City's website.

The City collects personal information as authorized under Section 5.11 of the City's Procedural By-law No. 10-053 for the purpose of entertaining individuals requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before Committee. The Procedural By-law is a requirement of Section 238(2) of the Municipal Act. Questions about the collection of personal information can be directed to the Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk, City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5 (905 546-2424 ext. 4304).

The Voluntary Lobbyist Registry is a public document and will be available for viewing in the City Clerk's office.

Presentation to the
Emergency And Community Services Committee

City of Hamilton

Monday, June 10 2013

1:30 pm

Council Chambers, City Hall

Maria Antelo, Community Development Worker

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

/Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton

100 Main Street East, Suite 203

Phone: (905) 527-4572, ext. 23

Fax: (905) 523-7282 m_antelo@lao.on.ca www.hamiltonjustice.ca

Introduction

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am a community development worker at the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic / Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton ("the Clinic").

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic is a community based not for profit agency whose diverse team of caring professionals and volunteers provides legal services to low income individuals and communities to promote access to justice and to improve quality of life. We do this through: summary advice and referral, representation, community development, law reform and public legal education. The clinic is run by a volunteer board of directors and we are funded by Legal Aid Ontario

I appear before you today in order to add my voice asking that appropriate city staff together with local agencies to investigate how undocumented individuals are treated in Hamilton and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee, for the following reasons:

The City of Toronto passed a resolution on February 21 2013, re-affirming its commitment to ensuring access to services without fear to immigrants without full status or without full status documents with direction to staff to review opportunities and strategies on how the City can assist.

On May 29, 2013 individuals and agencies met at the Hamilton Public Library to support the idea and notion that Hamilton should look into this matter. Over 50 people gathered in support of this idea

Undocumented Workers in Hamilton

There is presently no specific number on undocumented individuals in the City of Hamilton, nevertheless we do know, they are living, paying taxes, consuming, are engaged and contributing to this beautiful City.

I would like to be specific in giving you some example of these individuals and families who may be considered "undocumented" or without full status:

Lucene Charles:

On February 17 more than 200 supporters, from all walks of life, rallied in front of the Federal building located at 55 bay street in support of Lucene and her daughter Ajojke, who were about to be removed from Canada due to their status. Lucene was long time resident of Hamilton, a volunteer and worker and was later awarded a Woman of Distinction award. Thanks to the support of many individuals and organizations, and the relentless battle that she endured. Ms Charles was granted her permanent residence status this year. This was a happy ending.

But at some point, Lucene feared to speak about her situation and feared accessing basic services.

Right now, in this city, your neighbour, or someone you walk by every day on your way to work, or perhaps someone you know may be in this situation and will not speak because they fear repercussions.

Undocumented workers do not come to this city by illegal means:

I have met families and individuals who by no fault of their own may be in this situation (undocumented or without full status):

I have met women who came to Canada with a Canadian partner, and even after having Canadian born children, did not regularize their status and did not have access to basic services.

I have met temporary foreign workers who after working in Canada 2, 3, 4 years were not able to apply for permanent residence for circumstances that were not in their control (workplace injury, for example).

I have met live in nannies that were abused by their employers, and either had to quit their jobs or were fired from their jobs. This left them with precarious status.

I have met children whose parents were afraid to enrol them in school because they feared their status would not allow these children to access education.

Somewhere, in this city there are people living with fear. It should not be like this.

By investigating how undocumented individuals are treated in this City we will eventually be able to ensure that someone who may be your neighbour or someone that you say hello to everyday and may be an undocumented worker or a person without full status will be able to access health, police or emergency services without fear.

Therefore, we at the HCLC fully support the motion before you today - Item 9-1 in the agenda.

Thank you.