- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. – Room 207
Convention Centre, Summers Lane,

Present: Sophie Adiar, Mandira Raha, Joe Rhodes, Roger Cameron, Gurcharan Mander, Basharat Tayyab, Andre Nkundimfura, Tyrone Childs, Dr. Winston Morrison, Aimee Nezavdal, Jude Okpala, Dar Mohammad, Marilyn Hunt, Nasir Sarwar, Cherian Thomas, Essam Bayoumy

Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Nuyaba - City of Hamilton

Guests: Lina Elait, Jaffar Hayat

Regrets: Rabelani Makwarela, Samer Salman, Fatima Minhas, Taimur Qasim

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
All were welcomed and introduced

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA
Agenda was approved

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- April 28, 2009
Roger Cameron/ Essam Bayoumy

    CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES
   o Item 6.3- Selection of members for sub-committees I & II and III & IV
     That a media monitoring sub-committee be struck at the June meeting

   o Item 6.5- Racist incidents and complaints
     Motion: Mandira Raha / Aimee Nezavdal
     That sub-committee I take responsibility for the creation of an archive or database of all reported racist and discriminatory incidents.

     CARRIED

   o Item 7.1- Orientation of new members
     Due to the fairly minimal turnout of new members for the orientation, which took place on May 21, 2009, it was suggested by Tyrone Childs that the Access & Equity office notify CAR members in advance of next orientation, to ensure attendance.
6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 Anti-Racism Symposium Report – Basharat Tayyab to present draft
   o Basharat presented the symposium II report but expressed that the information she reviewed was inadequate and incomplete, which made it difficult for her to compile a concise report.
   o Maxine Carter offered to compile data from symposium II into Basharat’s report and provide a copy at the June meeting.
   o Maxine Carter presented a detailed report and update of the symposium recommendations highlighting the achievements, outcomes and activities requiring follow up / further action. An updated workplan was also presented to CAR members. Sub-committee members were asked to replace the previous workplan with the updated workplan and review it to provide a framework for further discussion and initiatives.

6.2 Report from Sub-committees I & II
   o Sub-committee I & II did not meet since last meeting as they are awaiting confirmation of new members, meeting date and room availability.

6.3 Selection of members for sub-committees I & II and III & IV
   o Maxine Carter assigned members to various sub-committees. New members still unassigned were urged to select committees by the next meeting.
   o It was suggested that all sub-committees meet either 1st or 2nd Tuesday of each month between 6-9pm based on the availability of the meeting room.
   o Maxine Carter will confirm the meeting room availability and email information to CAR members in a timely manner.

6.4 Equity Policy Update
   o Maxine Carter updated the committee on the progress of the equity policy. Aboriginal focus groups are almost complete. The draft equity policy is currently being presented to City Managers, Supervisors and Directors for review. The draft policy will be presented to the community for review and validation between June and September.
   o CAR members were encouraged to attend the community presentations and provide feedback.
   o Maxine will notify CAR members of meeting dates as soon as they are confirmed.

6.5 Racist incidents and complaints- guests to be present
   Follow up on the HPS meeting
   o Nick Farrell made an emotional presentation to the committee recounting the agony, injuries, humiliation and injustice he suffered due to an encounter with Officers of the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) on September 4, 1999.
   o CAR members empathized with Mr. Farrell’s ordeal and proposed various options to address the issue.
     **Option I:** That the committee seek legal assistance for Mr. Farrell.
     **Option II:** That HCCI launch a complaint on behalf of Nick Farrell to the Directorate of Police Service Board. Nasir Sarwar volunteered to work with Nick Farrell to facilitate the complaints process.
Option III: That the committee advocate for equity / anti-racism policy reforms within the Hamilton Police Service to prevent further injustice and racist acts by HPS officers and staff.

Option IV: That Mr. Farrell launch a complaint on SISO / HCCI Hate Crimes website, so the case will be thoroughly reviewed and monitored. Nasir Sarwar will provide website information and procedure to Mr. Farrell.

Option V: That Mr. Farrell presents his story at the Hamilton Media Advisory Council’s story meeting event on May 29, 2009. Nasir Sarwar volunteered to coach Mr. Farrell on his presentation.

All the proposed options were unanimously agreed upon to be pursued as action items.

Nick Farrell was asked by the committee to state what will be the best outcome for him. Mr. Farrell responded that he would like to seek justice and financial compensation for his ordeal.

Subsequently, the following motions were proposed:

Motion 1: Roger Cameron/ Mandira Raha
That the Chair write a letter, on behalf of the committee, to the best human rights lawyer in Canada requesting that he review the case and take it up Pro-Bono.

CARRIED

Motion 2: Roger Cameron/ Nasir Sarwar
I. That the Chair write a letter, on behalf of the committee, to Hamilton Police service requesting all information relating to:
   o HPS equity policy and procedures
   o HPS anti-racism training
   o HPS equity policy implementation and accountability

II. That this motion become the responsibility of sub-committee III

CARRIED

Motion 3: Mandira Raha/ Roger Cameron
That the CAR representative on Hamilton Media Advisory Council (HMAC) presents Nick Farrell’s case to the Council and requests that it gets adequate media attention in view of the upcoming Olympics.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

Members enquired whether Jaswinder Singh was still a member of the committee.

Chair will contact Jaswinder Singh Bedi to clarify his membership status.

Dar Muhammad requested update on the Taxi form and survey. Maxine Carter and Joe Rhodes provided an update based on feedback from Samer Salman regarding the reluctance of Taxi drivers to participate in the surveys. Dar Muhammad expressed frustration with the feedback and stated that the only acceptable action will be to seek legal action. Since Samer Salman was absent at the meeting, it was suggested that the matter be tabled, until he had an opportunity to update Dar Muhammad about his findings.
8. INFORMATION SHARING

   - **HCCI, SISO and HPS Hate Crimes Website** – Nasir Sarwar
     Nasir Sarwar reiterated that the newly launched hate crimes website was a useful resource which was actively being used with over 300 visitors launched to date. Close to 45 are complaints to date. He urged CAR members to share the information to community members experiencing racism, hate crimes and discrimination.

   - **Hamilton Media Advisory Committee Story Meeting** - Maxine Carter
     The event will take place on May 30, 2009 at 7pm at the Spectator Auditorium. Nick Farrell and CAR members were encouraged to attend and share their stories.

   - **Caribbean Potpourri** - Joe Rhodes
     The event marks the 25th anniversary of its occurrence and will take place on May 29, 2009 at 7pm at Bishop Ryan High school. Members were encouraged to attend and promote CAR by handing out brochures. The committee will pay for tickets for two members to attend the event. Members interested in attending must inform Maxine Carter before the end of the week to pick up ticket and CAR brochures. Dr. Morrison had previously bought tickets to attend the event and volunteered to take along CAR brochures.

   - A list of upcoming events needs to be compiled and present to the committee for approval.

9. ADJOURNMENT