- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday March 23, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – Room 207
Convention Centre, Summers Lane

Present: Sophie Adair, Winston Morrison, Jude Okpala, Taimur Qasim, Joe Rhodes, Tyrone Childs, Nasir Sarwar, Basharat Tayyab, Cherian Thomas, Samer Salman

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jaffar Hayat - City of Hamilton

Guests: Judy Ngan – Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Regrets: Roger Cameron, Marilyn Hunt, Gurcharan Mander, Andre Nkundimfura, Jaswinder Singh Bedi

Absent: Essam Bayoumy, Mandira Raha, Marwan Masri, Fatima Ahmad Minhas, Aimee Nezavdal, Edgar Saenz, Muhammad Dar

1. Welcome and Introductions
   o All were welcomed and all introduced themselves

2. Declaration of Interest
   o None declared

3. Review of Agenda
   o Agenda was reviewed

   S. Salman/N. Sarwar
   To accept the agenda as presented.

   Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes February 23, 2010
   o Review of minutes

   J. Okpala/B. Tayyab
   That the February 23, 2010 minutes of the Committee Against Racism be approved as presented.

   Carried.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes
   o No matters arising

6. Business Items
   6.1 Report from Sub-committee I & II
Committee discussed the fact that the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board venue for the symposium is too small. Only the auditorium is available.

Look into McMaster Innovation Park meeting rooms, to hold up to 250 persons, theatre style. Call Mark Stewart. May 8 15 or 29 (Sat.) not May 22.

Look into Jamesville Community Centre, the Venetian Club and St. Charles Learning Centre – Susan Friscolanti.

Budget $1,950 for the event, excluding the cost of the venue $400.

Sub-committee III & IV

Nasir presented the draft report regarding the proposed outline for Participatory Democracy Campaign

Nasir will e-mail the committee members follow-up information.

6.2 Racist incidents report & follow up.

6.2.1 SISO Rally regarding the New Dawn incident.

Lots of members from various communities attended

Media attended

Politicians (Municipal, Provincial, Federal) attended

Community activists attended

Neighbourhood friends attended

Union Leaders attended

It was stated that the incident was a result of a lack of understanding of what the purpose of the Welcome House was.

6.2.2 Fire bomb in the Hamilton Mosque.

Response by the city was very effective & compassionate

In attendance at the Mosque were City officials, other faith groups, police, media.

6.2.3 Nick Farrell’s case.

Sophie Adair has not had much success getting a journalist, with the skills/experience, to write the Nick Farrell’s story.

6.2.4 Noreen Virgin.

Tabled until the April meeting.

6.3 Report regarding meeting with Councillor Brian McHattie.

Joe Rhodes and Tyrone Childs met with Police Glenn De Caire and Deputy Chief Eric Girt.

Was a good meeting

Plan to meet again to follow up.

6.4 HCCI report back.

Joe requested dates of upcoming meetings.

6.5 Community Grants.

Tabled until the April meeting.
7. **New Business**

7.1 **Presentations – Taxi Working Group, Vince Ormond, Parking and By-Law Services.**

- Vince Ormond gave a brief overview regarding the objectives of the Taxi Working Group
- Invited stakeholders to attend a meeting
- We had representative sample of the stakeholders:
  - Plate owners
  - Two taxi companies
  - Lessees
  - 6 driver representatives (3 from the taxi welfare association, 3 non-association taxi drivers)
- Meets every 6 weeks, to review changes in industry & other issues (e.g. Safety concerns, shields & cameras for cars)
- No formal Terms of Reference, no authority to act through council directives
- Not aware of unions of drivers
- Some anxiety among drivers regarding cameras – recording
- Assured drivers that only Hamilton Police Services has access to view the recordings. Will not be used for performance of drivers
- Q – What is the Taxi Welfare Association?
  - A – Jazz Butt is the president. Presents issues of his membership. Reported that there is 300 – 500 membership. City does not interfere with relationship between drivers & management.
- Q – Why is the City of Hamilton accepting persons who are over qualified, as taxi drivers?
  - A – We have nothing to do with the person’s/driver’s education & the hiring process. We only issue the taxi license
- Q – What is the situation regarding the level of English? Is it part of the training?
  - A – Drivers are expected to be able to communicate with the passenger (2 way communication) & dispatcher. English proficiency is an expectation. Should take this course before taxi driver training (a pre-test English skills course to determine level of English). If do not pass screening test, then referred to other services to increase English proficiency. There are options to taking the test; written & verbal.
- Q – Can we get a copy of the taxi driver criteria?
  - A – Yes
- Q – What is the criterion for issuing new plates?
  - A – The information is not fully available on how and where to apply for taxi plates. It is not fully accessible.
- Q – Who determines how many cabs are on the city streets?
  - A – To purchase of lease plates, you must be involved in a cab industry for one year. 416 licensed cabs – bylaw allows us to issue 3 new plates per year. Review this every 10 years. To be on the list to receive plates, you must be on a priority list – since 1980 – closed now.
- Cost of test for new drivers $350.
- Existing drivers have 3 components; @ $125. per section
- For drivers who have been in industry for many years, they will be treated like someone who has been in the industry for 5 years
- Q – Any plans for dealing with the Pan Am Games?
A – Should be a plan to meet the demand e.g. temporary licences
- Looking at creating accessible taxi industry
- Will also be reviewing the licensing areas that we currently have responsibility for, including the taxi industry, will do study to determine transportation needs for the games.
- Will invite Committee Against Racism to the public meeting to give input

Q – What responsibility does your division have over plate owners taking away leasing contract from driver without notice?
A – Require 14 day period for cancellation of lease

Q – What does the city do regarding multiple owners of a plate? Discussion regarding multiple owners for one plate and where the plate is being transferred to an animal or a dead person.

Q – How does the City deal with cabs for the airport?
A – We licence certain cabs for airport transporting only, city cabs can only pick up passengers from a location and drop off at the airport but cannot pick up from the airport.

Q – What are the rates for limousines?
A – Not sure but will find out

Taxi Reform Sub-Committee deals with issues related to taxi industry 3 Councillors Membership include Councillors S. Merulla, B. Morelli, B. Collins Issues dealt with are things such as:
- E.g. Camera and shield for cabs
- Cameras are mandatory, shield are optional
- May 1, 2010, implementation date for this new bylaw

7.2  CCAR e-mail.
- Tabled until the April meeting

7.3  Ann Coulter Interview
- The committee is concerned about the tone and content of recent media interviews with Ann Coulter. She was recently (March 23, 2010) on CHML’s Charles Adler program where she was allowed to promote her discriminatory ideology.
  Jude will find out who invited Ann Coulter to Canada.

T. Childs/N. Sarwar
That the Committee Against Racism Chairperson write a letter to CHML Radio requesting a copy of the Charles Adler Show of March 23, 2010.
Carried.

8.  Information Sharing
- HCCI Governing Council Report Back to the Community – April 8, 2010
- Stewart Memorial Church, 175 Anniversary August 12-15, 2010. Will be blocking off John St. Expecting 50,000 people

9.  Adjournment
- Next meeting April 27, 2010
Adjourned meeting at 8:55 p.m.