
City Council
Notice of Motion

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| MM51.3 | ACTION | | | Ward: All |
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Revoking Pride Toronto Funding - by Councillor Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Ford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct that funding for Pride Toronto be paid after the parade and be conditional upon Pride Toronto requiring all registered participants to comply with the City of Toronto's Anti-Discrimination Policy.
2. City Council request the City Manager to advise Pride Toronto on what is required of them to meet the Policy.
3. City Council request the City Manager to advise Pride Toronto whether the participation of QAIA and the signs or banners they carry contravenes the City's Anti-Discrimination Policy.

Summary

Pride Toronto was incorporated in 1995 but has been in existence as the organizer of Pride Week in Toronto since 1971. Pride Week is the pre-eminent venue for the cultural and artistic expression of Toronto's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, queer, questioning and two-spirited community. Pride Week hosts an annual event in downtown Toronto each year.

The City of Toronto provides financial support through the Community Partnerships and Investment Program to enhance major cultural organizations, such as Pride, that are recognized as essential cultural ambassadors and infrastructure for the City. Funding is provided for cultural attractions that have a significant impact for the benefit of Torontonians and towards cultural tourism enhancement. These organizations play a major role in enhancing a local cultural ecology and in developing Toronto as a worldwide cultural destination.

Major cultural organizations such as Pride are recognized as essential cultural ambassadors for the City whose programs have a significant impact on the regional economy by playing a major role in tourism attraction through the development of Toronto as a worldwide cultural destination.

Last year, The City of Toronto provided financial support via the Culture and Access and Equity Grants totalling \$126,370.00 as well as \$170,000 for clean-up and policing of the event.

Over the last number of years, Pride's organizers have allowed a controversial anti-Israel group calling itself Queers Against Israel Apartheid (QuAIA) to march in the Pride Parade.

A video, Reclaiming Our Pride, recently created by Lawyer Martin Gladstone shows footage from the 2009 parade where QuAIA marchers carried signs condemning Israel with their members chanting the slogan, "Fist by Fist, Blow by Blow, Apartheid State, Has Got to Go."

The City of Toronto has very strict policies that surround the granting of funds to groups such as Pride. All groups that accept funding grants must declare that their organization adopts and upholds the City of Toronto's policy statement which prohibits discrimination and harassment while protecting the right to be free of hate activity based on age, ancestry, citizenship, creed (religion), colour, disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender identity, level of literacy, marital status, place of origin, membership in a union or staff association, political affiliation, race, receipt of public assistance, record of offences, sex, sexual orientation or any other personal characteristics by or within the organization.

In addition to adopting this Declaration, all recipients of funding or other support, are required to develop a Policy on Anti-Racism, Access and Equity, and develop Action Plans, pursuant to the City of Toronto Policy (Clause 5 of Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee Report 26). This Declaration is in keeping with the City of Toronto Human Rights and Harassment Policy and Procedures and Hate Activity Policy and Procedures (Clause 2 of Report 19 of Corporate Services Committee adopted by City Council on December 16 and 17, 1998).

On May 21, 2010, the Pride Board of Directors voted to disallow the use of the term "Israeli Apartheid", or any combination of this notion, in the Pride Festival and forwarded to City Staff a plan that included a rigorous review of applications, enhanced training of volunteers, the addition of consequences should any participant not comply with the terms and conditions of participation and vetting of parade participants at the point of marshalling.

On Tuesday, June 22, 2010 the organizers of the Pride Parade reversed their previous decision and are now allowing QuAIA to participate in this month's parade.

(Submitted to City Council on July 6 and 7, 2010 as MM51.3)