



Tuesday, June 7th, 2016

TO: ALL CITY OF TORONTO COUNCILLORS

RE: CD 12.6- 2015 Allocations: Community Legacy Initiative, Follow-up

We are writing you on behalf of the families, educators and community organizations that encompass the Latin American Education Network (LAEN).

We stand firm in our recommendation that the City of Toronto Councillors have community voice as the central and guiding voice in the re-allocation of CLI Funds.

We highly support the second CDRC Committee recommendation that, "City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to convene a meeting of key stakeholders, including interested Councillors, to determine how the City can best support the community dialogue on identity, and report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on September 20, 2016."

In regards to the CDRC recommendation that, "City Council approve the amended amount of up to \$75,000 of the previously approved \$175,000 to the Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council for the development of a mobile application to support a Latin Food event and to co-ordinate Hispanic Heritage Month," LAEN also stands firm in our recommendation that the CDRC Committee hold all monies until a thorough review of the initial selection process involving HCHC. We request that no allocation of funds be provided to the Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council (HCHC) at this time. This very real community concern stems from the involvement of Councillor Cesar Palacio while being an official Advisor to HCHC. We reiterate what was previously stated in our letter to CDRC on May 18th, 2016, "calling for the removal of Cesar Palacio from this process all together. We believe him to hold a Conflict of Interest and it is our opinion as a community group that he does not speak for our community. He prioritizes European colonial narratives in his focus on Hispanic identity (also academically understood as a caucasian Spaniard identity term)." Moreover, please be aware that there has been a petition started both online and a hard copy titled: Toronto Councillor Cesar Palacio Does NOT Represent the City's Community of Latin-America.

We are calling on you all as City Staff dedicated to seeing a successful legacy initiative, to hold all allocation of frant monies at this time, until the voice of the community can be heard in a transparent review process.

As a reminder and concluding remarks to City Staff, complaints have been brought forth regarding HCHC's racist, sexist, ageist and homophobic spaces without any response since 2015. Allocating funds to HCHC will do greater harm than good to our most marginalized members of our community in Toronto: Afro-LatinXs, Indigenous and LGBTQIA+ LatinX peoples, so we ask that you hear us now and avoid further compromising with the leadership of the HCHC.

Best Regards,

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