



Urban Alliance On Race Relations

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Charitable Registration 11928-0022-RR0001

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Subject: The Urban Alliance on Race Relations urges you to vote in favour of motion M32.20 and the Muslim Youth Fellowship

Dear Councillors,

In late 2016, prominent members of the Muslim community approached us to create an opportunity to develop a deep commitment to civic life. They knew that young communities have a commitment to city building, either in politics or as community volunteers or even potentially as City employees, and they wanted to create a path for them to be exposed to City Hall. A place many youth feel quite distant and intimidating.

That conversation created the Muslim Youth Fellowship. Since then, we have received support from the Atkinson Foundation and the Laidlaw Foundation, as well as numerous community members to help create training and opportunity for amazing young talent. One of the stipulations we asked for was diversity.

As an organization, that has for over 30 years been a pioneer in race relations we wanted to ensure that the program was accessible to anyone, particularly members of racial minorities. As you know, the Muslim community itself is incredibly diverse with members from all across the world, however the diversity of the program is not limited to just the community. Modeled after, and with help from, the Jewish community, the Fellowship was designed to attract Muslim youth, however the program is open to application by members of any faith, creed or race.

This is an excellent opportunity to train youth and give them experience that can really help our city create access to building careers in service of the public.

I'd like to urge you to vote in favour of motion M32.20 and the Muslim Youth Fellowship.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.MM32.20>

Thank you,

Nigel Barriffe

President, Urban Alliance on Race Relations

