

City Council

MM39.13	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Establishing an Anti-Racism Advisory Committee on Racial Justice -
by Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc**

** 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 Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager, in consultation with the Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to establish a new Anti-Racism Advisory Committee on Racial Justice issues and to report back to the July 17, 2018 Executive Committee meeting with recommended terms of reference and composition.

Summary

In December 1999, City Council approved the establishment of a City-wide advisory committee on Race and Ethnic Relations Issues. In our current term of Council it has not currently been reinstated. Toronto is arguably the most racially diverse City in Canada with over half of the population identifying as a "visible minority," according to recent census data. Yet, sadly these communities continue to experience hate, discrimination and marginalization. Racialized communities require a committee to be able to discuss and work on these issues.

Religion and race continue to be the top two motivating factors for hate crimes in Toronto over the last 10 years according to the Toronto Police Service Hate Crime Unit Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report of 2016. In addition, many studies demonstrate that people who are racialized experience greater barriers to accessing services, employment, education, etc. People who are racialized are more likely to live in poverty and race is a clear equity factor in Toronto.

More needs to be done to combat racial discrimination in the City. On October 2, 2017, Council passed Motion MM32.8 "Denouncing Acts of Hate and Intolerance in Toronto - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan" in which Council denounced hate in all its forms and reaffirmed its commitment to actively create an environment of equality in the government and in the community for all people. Today we have an opportunity to take action to address systemic racism in Toronto.

By creating a community advisory committee, composed of representatives and organizations

that represent Toronto's diverse racial communities, City Council will be better informed with community-based advice when making decisions that impact Toronto's diverse population.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.13