

Appointment of Members to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

Date: March 22, 2021

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

The report recommends the appointment of 14 public members to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Council Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council appoint the 14 individuals listed in the Confidential Attachment 1 to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2022 or until the completion of its mandate, whichever comes first.
2. City Council direct that the balance of Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on October 1 and 2, 2020, City Council approved the establishment of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemDetails.do?function=getMinutesItemPreview&agendaItemId=105999>

COMMENTS

Systemic anti-Black racism in our city deeply impacts the life chances and opportunities of Black communities, and leads to disparities in health, social, economic and political outcomes.

For many decades, Black communities have spoken out about their deep mistrust of public institutions. Various reports have underscored the differential treatment, discrimination and longstanding shortcomings in policies and programs, resulting in disproportionately negative outcomes for Black communities. There is a need for greater action and engagement of Black Torontonians to shape the strategic decisions and policy interventions that impact their lives. More community collaboration, strategic advice and innovative partnerships are needed to advance meaningful change and improve outcomes for Black residents. This has been recognized and acknowledged in the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism which was adopted by Toronto City Council in December 2017, and features a full section of recommendations and actions entitled, "Community Engagement and Black Leadership."

More changes are needed to restore community trust, foster deeper government transparency and accountability and advance efforts to counter anti-Black racism in inter-government and institutional work, as well as in the areas of policing and the justice system, in education, child-welfare, housing, and employment. This is also a civic imperative when considering the City of Toronto's commitment to advancing the implementation of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

Mandate of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Council Advisory Body

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Council Advisory Committee provides advice to City Council and serves as a convening table to advise on inter-governmental and institutional work on anti-Black racism in sectors such as education, child-welfare, policing and the justice system, housing, and employment. In doing so, the Committee can further build on the objectives of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism by supporting the implementation of the themes of the United Nations'

International Decade for People of African Descent, namely, "Recognition, Justice, Development".

The mandate of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Council Advisory Committee is to provide advice to City Council:

- To support the implementation of the principles of the International Decade for People of African Descent under the themes of Recognition, Development, and Justice;
- On the elimination of barriers faced by Black communities and recommend City engagement to help improve access to provincial, federal, and community agency services and programs;
- To ensure the interests and needs of Black communities are reflected in City programs and service delivery;
- On emerging issues and trends of significance to Black communities as they relate to City services and programs;
- In addition, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Council Advisory Committee will enjoy a collaborative, cooperative and cohesive relationship with the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit's Partnership and Accountability Circle.

Composition of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is composed of 14 public members and one Member of City Council. The public members will include the following:

- 8 representatives of organizations working in such fields as (but not limited to) housing, healthcare, education, employment and entrepreneurship, child welfare, policing and the criminal justice system;
- 3 elder members, who self-identify and represent the wisdom of Black communities;
- 3 youth members self-identifying as youth.

Eligibility

In addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, members should be comprised of community and policy leaders with lived experience and/or expertise in issues of Black communities' and reflecting the diversity of Black communities, including:

- Housing, healthcare, education, employment and entrepreneurship, child-welfare, policing and the criminal justice system;
- The elimination of barriers faced by Black communities to help improve access to provincial, federal, and community agency services and programs;
- Efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Torontonians as part of the City's contributions to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent;
- Emerging issues and trends of significance to Black communities as they relate to City services and programs;

- How to ensure the interests and needs of Black communities are reflected in City programs and service delivery.

Term of Office

Public members are appointed for a term coincident with the term of City Council. The Advisory Committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current City Council term, ending on November 14, 2022, whichever comes first.

How appointments to advisory bodies are governed

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit supported the Public Appointments recruitment and selection process. To ensure the rich diversity of the community leaders and elders were reflected in this Council Advisory Body, a thoughtful and intentional approach was taken to engage in extensive outreach through community agencies, partners and social media. Given the current circumstances with COVID-19, special efforts were also made to extend the application window for all people to apply. These efforts were reflected in the overwhelming response of diverse applicants and the high calibre of applications that were submitted.

Public release of names of recommended candidates

The names and biographies of the recommended candidates will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendations to City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Denise Andrea Campbell
Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - List of Recommended Candidates, Qualifications, and Confidential Voluntary Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

