



Cheryll Case

Phone: (647) 785-222

Email: Cheryll.Case@CPplanning.ca

Web: CPplanning.ca

April 27th, 2022

To: ecdc@toronto.ca

Attn: Economic and Community Development Committee, City of Toronto

Re: [EC29.5 Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism – Year Three Update](#)

CP Planning is a non-profit planning firm organized to implement a human rights approach to community planning, in partnership with our partners and collaborators in the public, private, non-profit, community, and academic sectors. This includes an acute focus in improving regulations and social relationships as to increase the ability for marginalized populations to access affordable housing and jobs. At the local level, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit (CABR) has been an invaluable partner and collaborator to making progress in improving conditions for Black people in particular.

In January of 2021, CP Planning completed the Black Futures on Eglinton arts based cultural planning study implemented in partnership with Black Urbanism TO. Black Urbanism TO is the local grassroots and Black-led non-profit engaging to address the loss of Black retail spaces in Little Jamaica. CABR was a partner in helping CP Planning to establish the community and municipal relationships required to achieve the level of engagement retained through this study. This includes their involvement of CP Planning in the Little Jamaica Advisory Committee, where we met members of the community who contributed to the plan, and CABR sharing invites to their municipal colleagues in SDFA and City Planning to attend Black Futures on Eglinton events or invite community members in their networks to attend. The impact of this report and CABR's support, are that the study's findings continue to be cited by the City of Toronto as a valued source for understanding the cultural interests of the Black community and allies in regard to helping to protect Black culture and people in Little Jamaica. In addition, it has helped to established valued relationships in the community that has lived on through the Tenant Solidarity Program (TSP).

The TSP is a community-led housing plan CP Planning is leading in partnership with the Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization. OVCO is a local non-profit resident volunteer-led group in the Oakwood Vaughan (East) portion of Little Jamaica. Through the TSP, CP Planning and the community are:

- working to organize tenants to protect their rights and fight renovictions initiated by new landlords looking to raise rents,
- working to establish an Oakwood Vaughan Community Land Trust,
- preparing development plans, in collaboration with Black developers and various funders, to build affordable housing,
- prioritizing the development of housing for Black people, in recognition that, as founded by the Black Futures on Eglinton report, that Black residents are leaving Little Jamaica at a rate 3x higher than other races,
- building relationships between OVCO and Black-led organizations in the neighbourhood and beyond, in order for OVCO to support advancing the mission of addressing systemic anti-Black racism in housing access

CABR is an incredibly valued asset to the housing work as identified above. We are aligned in our efforts to address the displacement of Black households. CABR's partnership with CP Planning in Partna is helping to identify how the Black community can build affordable housing in the Neighbourhood areas of Little Jamaica, as well as other neighbourhoods with high Black populations. This has included, in line with CABR's Growing in Place initiative, the leadership from CABR collaborating with CP Planning on the structure of Partna, and helping us to conduct outreach with the Black community so that steps in the development of Partna are well informed by the needs, capacities, and assets of the Black community.

I am incredibly grateful for the communities who advocated for the establishment of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit. In my everyday work, I come across various barriers that limit my ability to make progress in ensuring people of all backgrounds have fair access to housing and jobs. Addressing anti-Black racism in particular is incredibly difficult. The support, expertise, and amazing professionalism of CABR and its leadership put me in awe. They make the reality of an equitable future so much clearer to see, and closer at hand. I am in enthusiastic support of their Year Four Work Plan.

I hope to see in the implementation of CABR's Work Plan, and those succeeding, that CABR has increased funding support, allocation, and decision-making influence in the leading of major planning studies in areas with large Black populations. As leading thinkers and doers in addressing anti-Black racism, CABR is equipped to take on this responsibility. Understanding and reflecting CABR's expertise by enabling them to be leaders in major and well funded studies will result in the City achieving faster and deeper results in improving equitable outcomes for Black people and households.

Kindly,

Cheryll Case
Founder, Principal Urban Planner
CP Planning
Cheryll.Case@CPplanning.ca