

September 17th, 2024

## Deputation to the Economic and Community Development Committee – September 18, 2024

Dear members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

My name is Walied Khogali Ali, a member of the [Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee \(CABRAC\)](#), and I am here today to express my strong support for the adoption of Item [EC15.8 – Advancing Action on the Impact to Action: Final Report on Anti-Black Racism in Toronto Police Services](#).

This motion is crucial for translating the findings of the "[From Impact to Action](#)" report into actionable steps that will benefit Black communities across Toronto. As highlighted in CABRAC's [Terms of Reference](#), the City of Toronto acknowledges that anti-Black racism is historic, pervasive, and systemic, rooted in Canada's legacy of enslavement and colonization. It is imperative that this committee, City Council, and all relevant agencies commit to taking concrete steps to address these systemic issues and promote justice and equity for Black residents.

The [CABRAC motion](#) passed on September 4th aims to ensure that the findings of the [Ontario Human Rights Commission \(OHRC\)](#) report are not only acknowledged but acted upon. This committee meeting provides a key opportunity for City agencies to directly report on their progress in confronting anti-Black racism, particularly within **Toronto Police Services (TPS)** and **Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)**. These institutions, as highlighted in the OHRC report, have had significant impacts on Black Torontonians, and accountability is critical in moving forward.

The OHRC's **Impact to Action** report, the first of its kind, combines hard data with the lived experiences of Black people, detailing the extensive and long-standing harm suffered by Black communities due to discriminatory policing practices. The evidence of systemic racial discrimination and anti-Black racism cannot be ignored. **The inquiry found that TPS practices and activities disproportionately affect Black people, contributing to racial profiling and discrimination.** The OHRC has developed **107 recommendations** to address this systemic anti-Black racism, and they are committed to holding TPS and the Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB) accountable for implementing these recommendations through **independent monitoring** and **legal enforceability**.

Key recommendations include:

- **Destroying historical street check data:** The practice of carding has been a foremost concern for Black communities, exemplifying how discretionary police power disproportionately targets and harms Black people. The OHRC found that TPS and TPSB failed to purge historical street check data, much of which was the product of racial profiling.

- **Recommendation 63:** The TPSB should consult with the **Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC)** to develop privacy guidelines for the collection, analysis, and public release of human rights-based data.

- **Recommendation 64:** TPS must destroy personally identifiable information from carding/street check data collected before January 1, 2017, unless there are active court orders requiring its retention.

The impacts of racial profiling and carding have left deep scars on Black communities. The OHRC's recommendations are legally enforceable, and this committee must work with the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee and the rest of our City Council to ensure that TPS and TPSB take decisive, concrete actions to end this cycle of harm.

I urge this committee to request updates directly from TPS and other City agencies, divisions, or subsidiaries identified in the OHRC report, including TCHC. Public accountability is essential in ensuring these agencies are making real, measurable progress in addressing the systemic anti-Black racism outlined in the report. Additionally, it would be highly beneficial for CABRAC to invite a representative from the **OHRC** to present on the findings and recommendations in the "From Impact to Action" report. Their insights will provide critical guidance on the next steps needed to dismantle systemic barriers faced by Black communities and help our city move toward a more just and equitable future.

As we approach the next iteration of the [10-Year Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#), it is critical to build upon the work initiated by the 2018-2023 plan adopted by City Council. A review of the progress made so far and a commitment to further action in light of the OHRC report is necessary to continue advancing equity and justice for Black Torontonians.

In conclusion, I strongly support the adoption of **EC15.8** and urge this committee to take meaningful steps to address anti-Black racism in our city. By advancing this motion, inviting the OHRC to present, and holding City agencies accountable, we can begin to dismantle the systemic barriers that continue to oppress Black communities in Toronto.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Walied Khogali Ali**

Member, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee  
City of Toronto