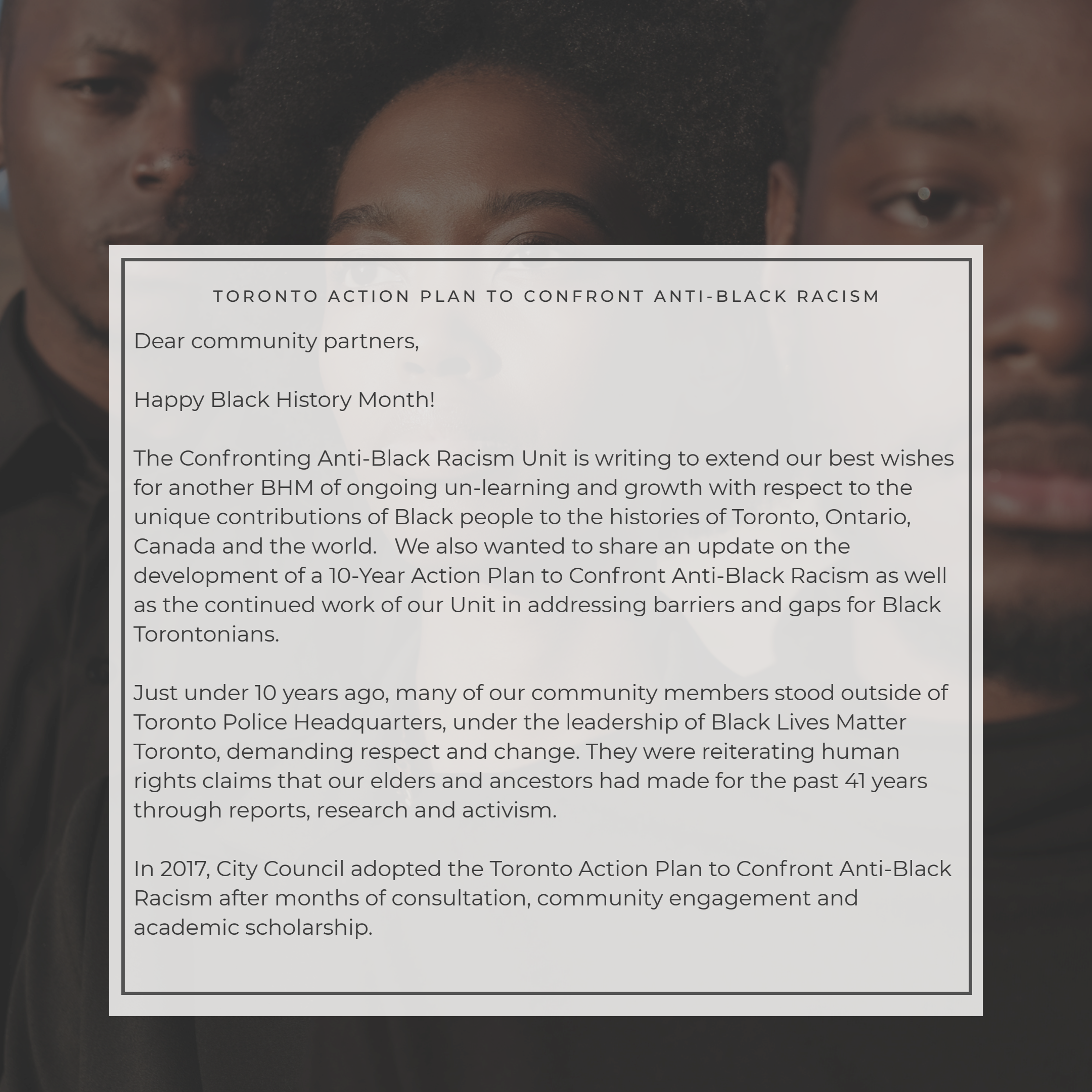


TORONTO ACTION PLAN TO CONFRONT ANTI-BLACK RACISM

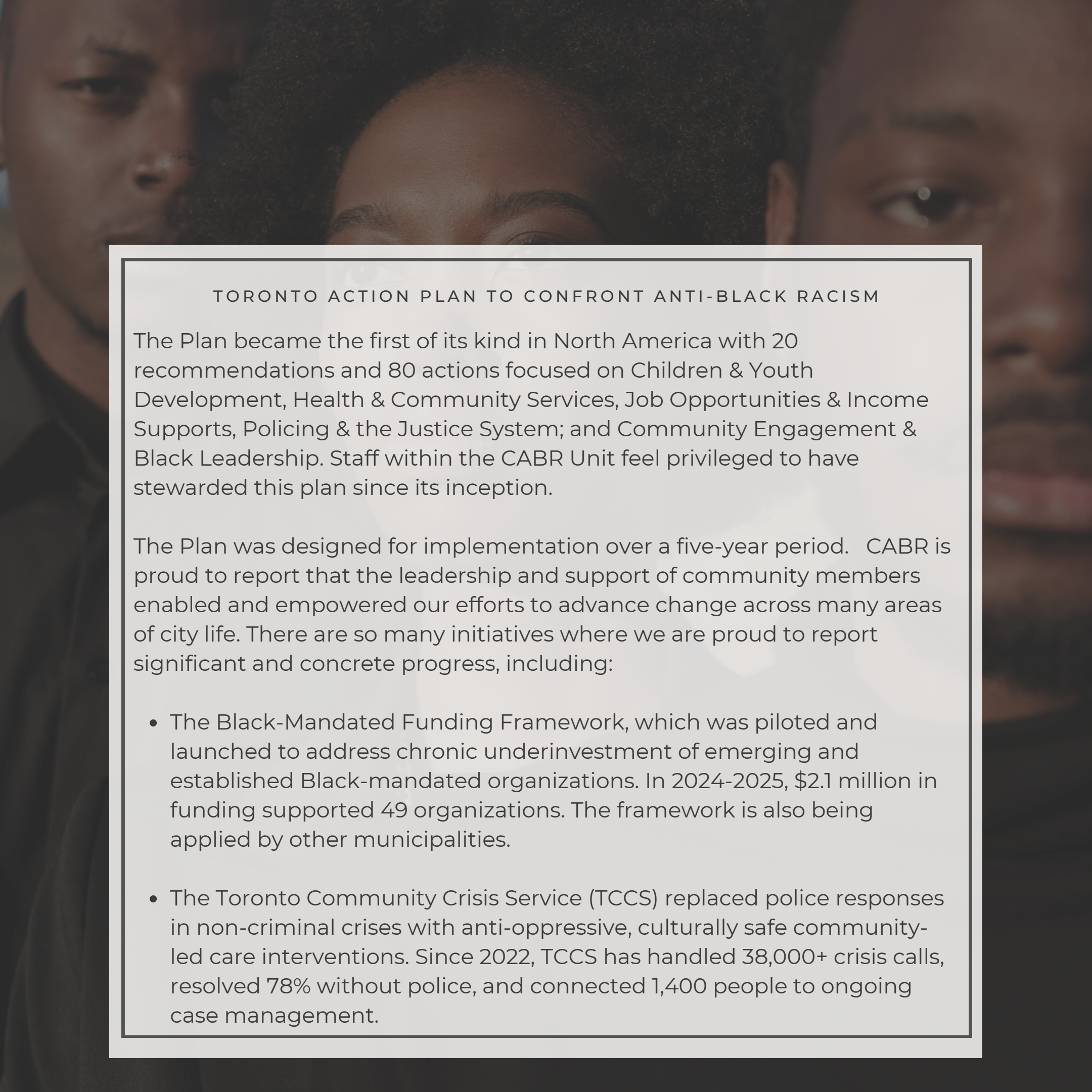
Dear community partners,

Happy Black History Month!

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit is writing to extend our best wishes for another BHM of ongoing un-learning and growth with respect to the unique contributions of Black people to the histories of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and the world. We also wanted to share an update on the development of a 10-Year Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism as well as the continued work of our Unit in addressing barriers and gaps for Black Torontonians.

Just under 10 years ago, many of our community members stood outside of Toronto Police Headquarters, under the leadership of Black Lives Matter Toronto, demanding respect and change. They were reiterating human rights claims that our elders and ancestors had made for the past 41 years through reports, research and activism.

In 2017, City Council adopted the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism after months of consultation, community engagement and academic scholarship.



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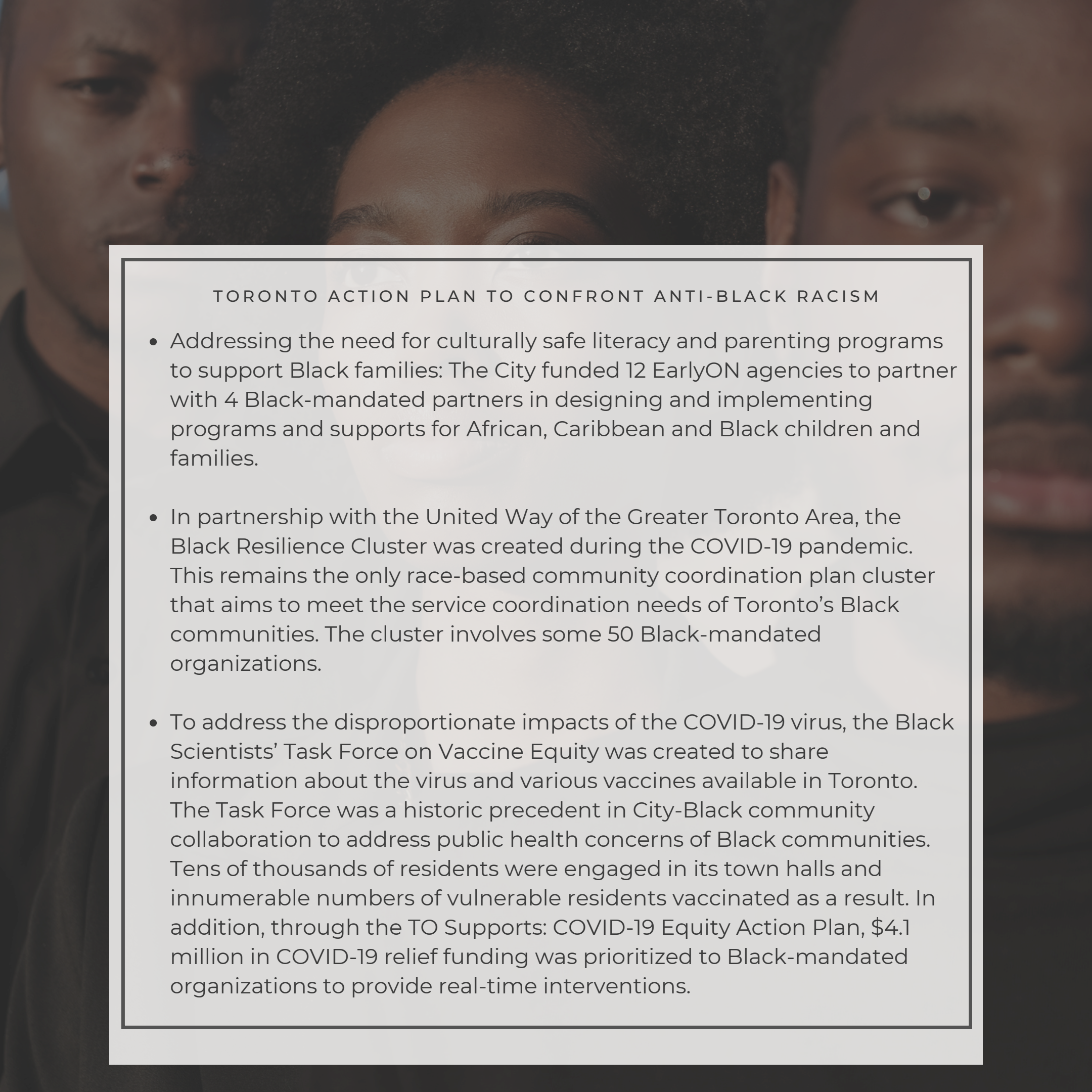
The Plan became the first of its kind in North America with 20 recommendations and 80 actions focused on Children & Youth Development, Health & Community Services, Job Opportunities & Income Supports, Policing & the Justice System; and Community Engagement & Black Leadership. Staff within the CABR Unit feel privileged to have stewarded this plan since its inception.

The Plan was designed for implementation over a five-year period. CABR is proud to report that the leadership and support of community members enabled and empowered our efforts to advance change across many areas of city life. There are so many initiatives where we are proud to report significant and concrete progress, including:

- The Black-Mandated Funding Framework, which was piloted and launched to address chronic underinvestment of emerging and established Black-mandated organizations. In 2024-2025, $2.1 million in funding supported 49 organizations. The framework is also being applied by other municipalities.

- The Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) replaced police responses in non-criminal crises with anti-oppressive, culturally safe community-led care interventions. Since 2022, TCCS has handled 38,000+ crisis calls, resolved 78% without police, and connected 1,400 people to ongoing case management.



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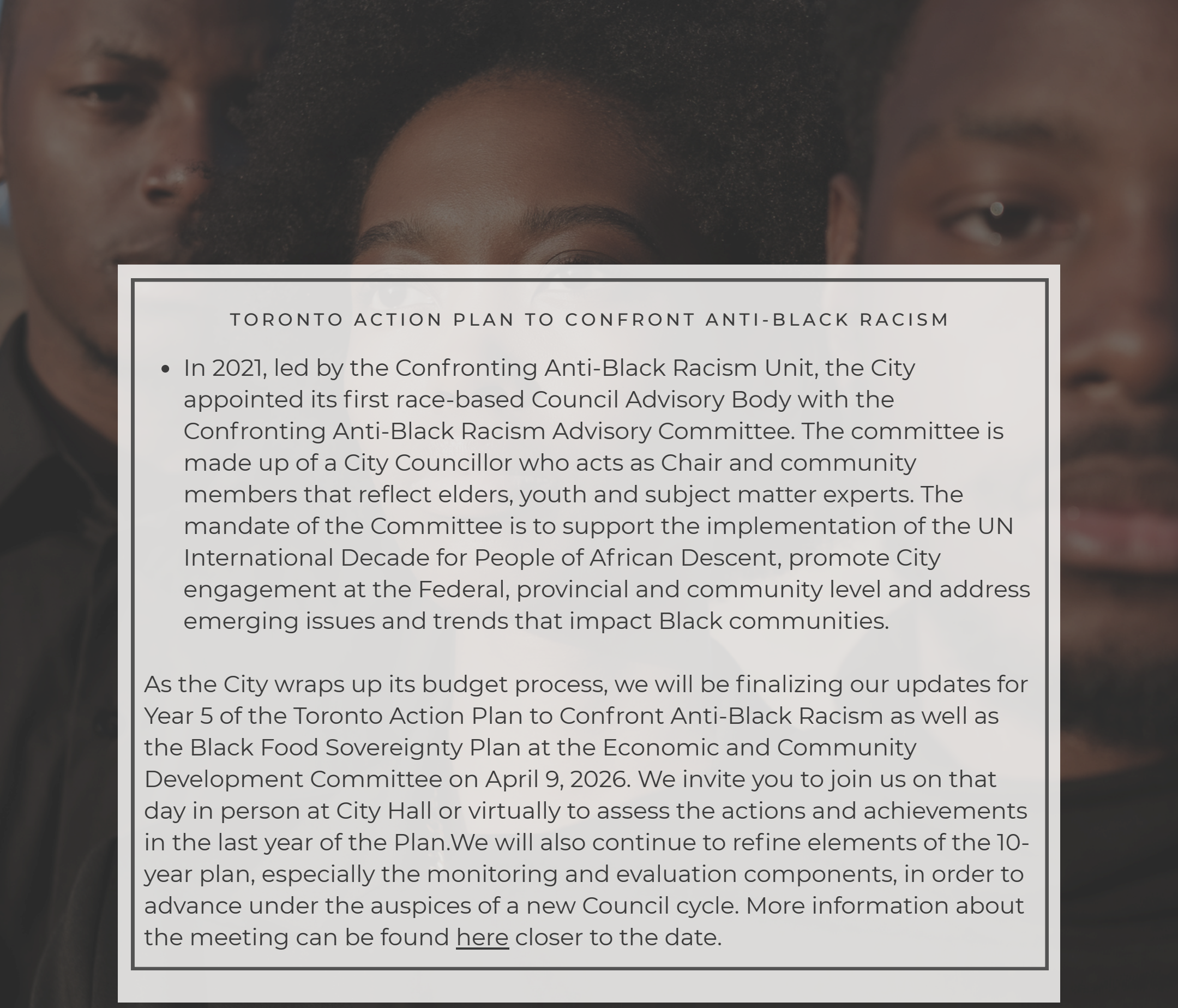
- Addressing the need for culturally safe literacy and parenting programs to support Black families: The City funded 12 EarlyON agencies to partner with 4 Black-mandated partners in designing and implementing programs and supports for African, Caribbean and Black children and families.

- In partnership with the United Way of the Greater Toronto Area, the Black Resilience Cluster was created during the COVID-19 pandemic. This remains the only race-based community coordination plan cluster that aims to meet the service coordination needs of Toronto's Black communities. The cluster involves some 50 Black-mandated organizations.

- To address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 virus, the Black Scientists' Task Force on Vaccine Equity was created to share information about the virus and various vaccines available in Toronto. The Task Force was a historic precedent in City-Black community collaboration to address public health concerns of Black communities. Tens of thousands of residents were engaged in its town halls and innumerable numbers of vulnerable residents vaccinated as a result. In addition, through the TO Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan, $4.1 million in COVID-19 relief funding was prioritized to Black-mandated organizations to provide real-time interventions.



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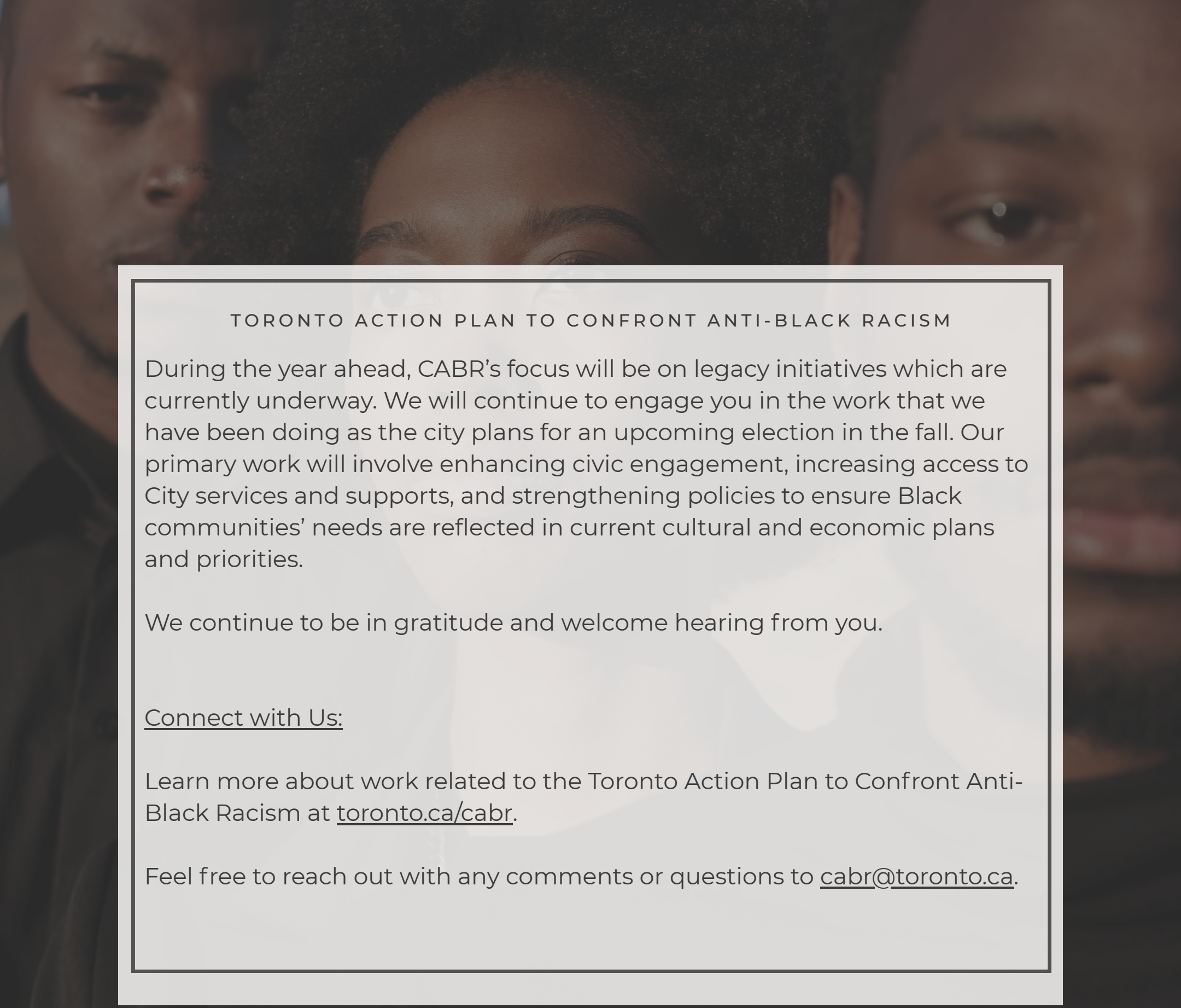
- In 2021, led by the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, the City appointed its first race-based Council Advisory Body with the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of a City Councillor who acts as Chair and community members that reflect elders, youth and subject matter experts. The mandate of the Committee is to support the implementation of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, promote City engagement at the Federal, provincial and community level and address emerging issues and trends that impact Black communities.

As the City wraps up its budget process, we will be finalizing our updates for Year 5 of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism as well as the Black Food Sovereignty Plan at the Economic and Community Development Committee on April 9, 2026. We invite you to join us on that day in person at City Hall or virtually to assess the actions and achievements in the last year of the Plan.We will also continue to refine elements of the 10-year plan, especially the monitoring and evaluation components, in order to advance under the auspices of a new Council cycle. More information about the meeting can be found here closer to the date.



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During the year ahead, CABR's focus will be on legacy initiatives which are currently underway. We will continue to engage you in the work that we have been doing as the city plans for an upcoming election in the fall. Our primary work will involve enhancing civic engagement, increasing access to City services and supports, and strengthening policies to ensure Black communities' needs are reflected in current cultural and economic plans and priorities.

We continue to be in gratitude and welcome hearing from you.

Connect with Us:

Learn more about work related to the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism at toronto.ca/cabr.

Feel free to reach out with any comments or questions to cabr@toronto.ca.