

From: YorkRegionAlliance of ACC [<mailto:yorkregion.aacc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Regional Clerk; Emmerson, Wayne; tmrakas@aurora.ca; vhackson@eastqwillimbury.ca; mquirk@georgina.ca; spellegrini@king.ca; MayorScarpitti@Markham.ca; jtaylor@newmarket.ca; officemayor@richmondhill.ca; maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca; mayor@townofws.ca; rgrossi@georgina.ca; dhamilton@markham.ca; tvegh@newmarket.ca; mario.ferri@vaughan.ca; Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Markham; joeli@markham.ca; jjones@markham.ca; joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca; carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca; gino.rosati@vaughan.ca; linda.jackson@vaughan.ca

Cc: York Region AACC

Subject: The International Decade for People of African Descent continues

To Members of the York Regional Council:

Re. Recognition of The International Decade for People of African descent and raising of the Pan-African flag

Dear : Councillors

We are the York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC)

Our Vision:

A cohesive and influential African Canadian Community

Our Mission:

To facilitate the cultivation of a progressive York Region African Canadian Community, through advocacy, resource development and service delivery as it relates to culture, education, employment, social services, and other governmental responsibilities .

"An alliance of people; amplifying the voice of our community"

In December 2014, the UN General Assembly, in its Resolution 68/237, proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request that the Regional Municipality York officially recognizes the International Decade for People of African Descent by proclamation, in concert with a Pan-African Flag Raising Ceremony on August 17th 2020 at the Regional Headquarters.

The date is significant, being the birthday of The Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey, a renowned Pan-Africanist.

The Intent of the Flag Raising is to build awareness, and encourage public, and private sectors to incorporate the goals the Decade.

This Decade, for which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was designated as the lead agency, aims to strengthen actions and measures to ensure the full realization of the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in society.

Under the theme "Recognition, Justice and Development", the Decade provides an operational framework to encourage States to eradicate social injustices inherited from history and to fight against racism, prejudice and racial discrimination to which people of African descent are still subjected.

Our desire is to promote a greater knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies; including their contribution to Canada in general, and York Region in particular.

We are more than half way through this decade, however, the Black community in Canada, including we in York Region continue to experience systemic Anti-Black Racism, graphically displayed by the recent murder of George Floyd in the United States. That incident which has resulted in a global uprising has refreshed the trauma our community experiences. We have also noticed a growing increase in the incidence of Hate Crimes in the Region.

We would welcome an opportunity in the future to discuss the social and mental health impacts Particularly on our youth in York Region.

We hope for your kind consideration of this request, and we are willing to help in any way we can to make the proposed event a reality, while working with you to improve our communities, ensuring long-term success and a high standard of living for all York Region

Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Lee Miller

Chair



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