

Minute Item No. 5.3
CSC-C 18-2023

Motion – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Damaging Impacts of Hate and Intolerance

WHEREAS respect for the views and opinions of others is a hallmark of civil discourse in our society;

WHEREAS freedom of expression is a fundamental value of a free and democratic society;

WHEREAS speech that threatens violence, intimidates, abuses or bullies is not and should not be protected as free expression;

WHEREAS there have been many recent instances of violence, threats of violence, intimidation, abuse, and bullying by some individuals in the Niagara region against others for a variety of reasons other than legitimate differences of political views or opinions;

WHEREAS some elected officials in Niagara have been the subject of violent attacks, online harassment, and physical intimidation over the past several months;

WHEREAS Regional Council approved on February 17, 2022, a Resolution at the Corporate Services Committee that condemned those acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation against members of Regional Council and local area municipal councils, all public servants, and all health care providers;

WHEREAS elected officials are obligated to adhere to the provisions of codes of conduct that regulate their behaviour when serving the public; and

WHEREAS there is no excuse for bad behaviour by any individual against another.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **AFFIRMS** that equity, diversity, and inclusion are core values that it supports and will continue to promote;
2. That the Niagara Regional Police Service **BE REQUESTED** to take a more assertive approach to responding to complaints of threats of violence, intimidation, and bullying of elected officials and members of local appointed committees in Niagara;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the following and provide a report to the Corporate Services Committee as soon as reasonably practical:
 - a) Creation of a program to educate the public on the benefits of equity, diversity and inclusion and conversely the damaging impacts of hate and intolerance;
 - b) Whether Council should consider the creation of a residents or citizens code of conduct to guide individuals engaging elected officials or attending meetings of Regional Council and its Committees and various advisory committees;

- c) Any further information, data or recommendations that Council should consider to alleviate incidents of hate and intolerance in Niagara;
4. That the Provincial Government **BE REQUESTED** to develop legislation and/or policies to protect elected officials and members of local appointed committees from violence, threats of violence, intimidation, abuse, and bullying by other individuals; and
5. That a copy of this Resolution **BE SENT** to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all municipalities in Niagara, all Niagara MPPs and MPs, and the Chief of the Niagara Regional Police Service for consideration and support.

Minute Item No. 5.1

CLK 8-2023

2024 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings

That Report CLK 8-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting 2024 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2024 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings (attached as Appendix 1 to Report CLK 8-2023) **BE APPROVED**.

Minute Item No. 5.2

CLK 9-2023

Appointments to Licensing Appeals Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

That Report CLK 9-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting Public Member Appointments to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Business Licensing Appeals Committee, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the recommendations contained in Confidential Appendix I to Report CLK 9-2023, **BE APPROVED**, confirming the public member appointments for the remainder of this term of Council to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Business Licensing Appeals Committee.

Minute Item No. 6.1

CSD 39-2023

Q2 2023 Financial Update

That Report CSD 39-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting Q2 2023 Financial Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Minute Item No. 6.2

CSD 42-2023

Additional Information Regarding Development Charges at 4389 Beechwood Road, Niagara Falls

That Report CSD 42-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting Additional Information Regarding Development Charges at 4389 Beechwood Road, Niagara Falls, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Minute Item No. 9.1

Confidential CSD 41-2023

**A Matter of Litigation pursuant to s. 239(2)(e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 -
Councillor Information Requests regarding Active Litigation Matters**

That Confidential Memorandum CSD 41-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting A Matter of Litigation Pursuant to s. 239(2)(e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Councillor Information Requests Regarding Active Litigation Matters, **BE RECEIVED** for information.