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## Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

**Date:** August 6, 2020  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** Online Video Conference

### Members

Mayor Bonnie Crombie	Mayor
Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6 (Co-Chair)
Councillor Sue McFadden	Ward 10 (Co-Chair)
Abdul Qayyum Mufti	Citizen Member
Bhagwan (Gary) Grewal	Citizen Member
Brad Bass	Citizen Member
Cindy Stevens	Citizen Member
Denise Gordon-Mohamud	Citizen Member (Vice-Chair)
Hanoz Kapadia	Citizen Member
Irfan Malik	Citizen Member
Jo-Anne Beggs	Citizen Member
John Henry He	Citizen Member
Josephine Bau	Citizen Member
Kaukab Usman	Citizen Member
Raihana Hirji-Khalfan	Citizen Member

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the Council Chamber will not be open to the public to attend Council and Committee meetings until further notice.

Public Comments: Any member of the public interested in speaking to an item listed on the agenda may register at [virtualmeeting.help@mississauga.ca](mailto:virtualmeeting.help@mississauga.ca) by Thursday, August 6, 2020 before 3:00 PM. Comments submitted will be considered as public information and entered into public record.

### Contact

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### Find it Online

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/diversityandinclusioncommittee>

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
4. DEPUTATIONS - Nil
5. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - 15 Minute Limit

Pursuant to Section 42 of the Council Procedure By-law 0139-2013, as amended:

Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee may grant permission to a member of the public to ask a question of Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, with the following provisions:

1. The question must pertain to a specific item on the current agenda and the speaker will state which item the question is related to.
2. A person asking a question shall limit any background explanation to two (2) statements, followed by the question.
3. The total speaking time shall be five (5) minutes maximum, per speaker.

6. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

6.1 Request from Hindu Forum Canada for an exemption to the Noise By-law

Council directed as per Resolution 0283-2020 that the request to broadcast religious hymns to celebrate the Hindu festivals between August 11 to September 1, 2020 be referred to DIAC to review for a 1 time exemption to the Noise By-law and report back to Council.

Background Information:

- A. Resolution 0283-2020
- B. Letter dated July 31, 2020, from Hindu Forum Canada regarding the broadcast of religious hymns and observe religious processions from August 11, 2020 to September 1, 2020

7. INFORMATION ITEMS - Nil

8. ADJOURNMENT



MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION NO.: 0283-2020 Page 1 of 1 <sup>6.1</sup>

Date: August 5, 2020

Moved by: Karen Ras

Seconded by: Sue McFadden

That the matter regarding a request to broadcast religious hymns to celebrate the Hindu festivals between August 11, 2020 to September 1, 2020 be referred to the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to review as soon as possible and report back to a Special Council that will be scheduled prior to August 11, 2020.

Recorded Vote	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie			✓	
Councillor S. Dasko	✓			
Councillor K. Ras	✓			
Councillor C. Fonseca	✓			
Councillor J. Kovac	✓			
Councillor C. Parrish		✓		
Councillor R. Starr	✓			
Councillor D. Damerla		✓		
Councillor M. Mahoney		✓		
Councillor P. Saito		✓		
Councillor S. McFadden	✓			
Councillor G. Carlson	✓			



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July 31, 2020

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905-896-5900

**RE: Permission to broadcast religious hymns and observe religious processions from August 11, 2020 to September 1, 2020 (on the upcoming Hindu festivals of Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam)**

Dear Mayor and City Councillor's,

Hindu Forum Canada, hereby, intends to seek permission to broadcast religious hymns once a day and observe a round of religious processions to celebrate the upcoming Hindu festivals of Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam starting from August 11, 2020.

Hindu Forum Canada seeks to receive gesture that would allow the local Mandirs (Hindu Temples) to broadcast religious hymns, Gayatri Mantra and Hanuman Chalisa once a day from August 11, 2020 to September 1, 2020, for the purpose of allowing Mississauga (and other) Hindus to celebrate the auspicious occasions of Krishna Janmashtami on August 11, 2020, Ganesh Chaturthi on August 22, 2020 and Onam on August 31, 2020 respectively. Due to the restrictions and challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, our Hindu diaspora (relocated followers) have not been able to attend Mandirs (Hindu Temples) or observe their religious ceremonies – and thus have been deprived of experiencing much of their culture, religious practices and the experience of having their religious songs being sung publicly during these trying times. Therefore, permitting the Mandirs in the region to broadcast religious hymns at Arti time in the evening at 7 PM for 5 minutes and stage a limited number of religious parades once a week will act as a source of comfort, especially to the seniors who are at a greater risk of infection by COVID-19 and are unable to leave their homes, even now when the economy has at least partially started to re-open.

Sincerely,

Rao Yendamuri,  
President  
Hindu Forum Canada