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Notice of Motion – March 20th, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Brad Butt
Seconded by: Councillor Dipika Damerla

WHEREAS the Combating Racism, Discrimination and Hatred Committee (CRDHC) was created to provide advice to City Council and staff on ways to remove systemic barriers for equitable access to City services and programs, provide insight and build public awareness to combat racism and hatred;

AND WHEREAS reported hatred against Muslim and Jewish communities in Mississauga has been on the rise across the Greater Toronto Area, exacerbated by the conflict between Israel and Hamas beginning on October 7, 2023;

AND WHEREAS 2023 numbers are not yet available for Mississauga we know that in neighbouring Toronto, anti-Semitic incidents made up 53% of reported hate crimes since the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7, 2023;

AND WHEREAS combating hatred, discrimination and racism are among the primary goals of the CRDHC;

AND WHEREAS some members of the Jewish community are requesting representation on the Committee in the wake of the significant rise in hate-motivated incidents to ensure their voice and perspectives are heard by the Committee as the City undertakes the important work of combating racism, hate and discrimination;

AND WHEREAS the Jewish community is looking for constructive ways to help address the increased hate against their community;

AND WHEREAS the terms of reference of the committee require 10 citizen members and 2 city council members;

AND WHEREAS in order to include a member of the Jewish community on the CRDHC would require Council approval;

AND WHEREAS Council has already passed a motion to increase the number of councillors on the committee from 2 to 3;

AND WHEREAS Mississauga has always worked to be inclusive and in this case, special circumstances require flexibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Combating Racism, Discrimination and Hatred Committee membership be increased from 10 citizen members to 11 citizen members to include a person of Jewish faith for this term, so long as the applicant qualifies all of the other requirements and qualifications to be a member of this committee; and

The Clerk's office be directed to initiate recruitment to fill the vacancy for a new committee member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Butt', with a stylized, looping initial 'B' and a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Butt, Councillor, Ward 11