

Report to Corporate Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee
From: Cathy Saunders, City Clerk
Subject: Application – Issuance of Proclamation – London Black History Month
Date: January 18, 2021

Recommendation

That, the Civic Administration BE ADVISED as to how Municipal Council wishes to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) Proclamation request.

Previous Reports Pertinent to this Matter

Corporate Services Committee – December 3, 2019
Corporate Services Committee – January 6, 2020

Background

The Issuance of Proclamations Policy is attached as Schedule “A” for information purposes.

Conclusion

The Civic Administration is seeking direction from the Municipal Council as to how they wish to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) proclamation request received December 17, 2020 from the London Black History Coordinating Committee requesting the month of February be proclaimed London Black History Month 2021.

Submitted by: Cathy Saunders, City Clerk

Appendix "A"

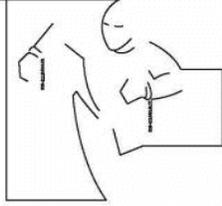
Proclamation Request Form

Requests for the issuance of proclamations are governed by Council Policy (excerpted below). Requests must be received at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date and may be emailed to the City Clerk at ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca or mailed to City Hall, P.O. Box 5035 LONDON, ON, N6A 4L9.

Request details

Name of Organization London Black History Coordinating Committee
Date Proclamation Required Monday January 25, 2021 or anytime that week – before Monday February 1, 2021
Proclamation Name London Black History Month 2021 - 2021 Theme: <i>The Strength & Resilience of the Black Community in Southwestern Ontario</i>
Proclamation Type (day), (week), (month) London Black History Month Monday January 25, 2021
Category (public awareness campaigns), (charitable fundraising campaigns), (arts and cultural celebrations) Public Awareness and Recognition of the contributions of people of African descent who have called London Home since 1865
Requester Name Carl Cadogan, Chair
Requester Telephone Number
Requester Email Address
Requester Address C/O London Cross Cultural Centre 505 Dundas Street London, Ontario N6B 1W4
Required Supporting Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detail information on the Organization• Detail information on the Event• Confirmation of authorization from the Organization to submit the request
The undersigned confirms that I am the Official Representative of the Organization requesting the Proclamation and that by signing this Application, I acknowledge and agree that my organization complies with all City of London's Policies and By-laws.  <p style="text-align: right;">17.12.2020</p> <hr/> <p>Signature Date</p>
NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION Personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25</i> and may also be used for purposes related to the Issuance of Proclamations Policy and Proclamation Request Form. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk, 3rd floor, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9. Tel: 519-661-2489, ext. 4937, email: csaunders@london.ca

**LONDON BLACK HISTORY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**



December 17, 2020

City Clerk
Councillor Arielle Kayabaga
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario

Dear Councillor Kayabaga & City Clerk:

2020 has been a year of upheaval in London, across the country and around the world. COVID 19, the Black Lives Matter Movement and many other important milestones in the lives of Londoners and member of the City's black community. We once again and more loudly than in the past, wants the city to proclaim Black history Month in February 2021, and want it to be done much sooner than it was done in 2020.

Counsellor Kayabaga and City Clerk, we have again looked at the City of London's strategic plan and I believe the two points below best describe how LBHCC fits in. It is also more than those from the Black community fitting in, and feeling a sense of belonging, but it also means that others, who are not as familiar and know nothing of how far back our community goes in this city, will also learn more through the programming in February. This year we have sponsorship from TD Bank and we will focus some of the programming not only on Black youth, but the intersection of Black Youth issues with those of the Indigenous Community.

Strategic Priorities:

- Increase the number of residents who feel welcomed and included
- Create inclusive engagement opportunities for Londoners

We look forward to seeing this proclamation in place again for 2021.

Sincerely,

Carl Cadogan, Chair
London Black History Coordinating Committee

2020 Theme – Our Community is our Strength

The London Black History Coordinating Committee, since its inception, has been supported by the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre. From its mission statement: *LCCLC is a community organization that exists to provide settlement services and support to newcomers and to promote intercultural awareness and understanding.* The centre provides outreach support to the committee and an employee of the LCCLC is a member of our committee.

Since 2001, the London Black History Coordinating Committee has held events to celebrate Black History Month. The Committee also acts as a coordinating body to ensure that the community knows about all events not only those developed and planned by the Committee. In 2019, the committee organized six events and continued to promote other similar events in the London area on our Facebook page and on our website. The events in 2019 included: The Opening Ceremony, which featured performances as well as booths displaying information about various cultural groups; The African Food Festival, a food experience featuring food from three East African and three West African countries. The Children’s Festival, held at the downtown branch of LPL, with a turnout of over 350 people including over three hundred children; the Closing Gala, which featured the Black Community Achievement Award ceremony as well as a number of musical and artistic performances.

Through entertainment and education, Black History Month assists with increasing the knowledge in London about the contributions of Canadians of African descent. The social nature of the activities organized and supported, provides time for the community to present their successes and achievements to the city, highlighting their contributions and encouraging more interactions among and between Londoners of different cultures and races. Reducing negative stereotypes and increasing opportunities for community engagement is a proven method for helping to reduce prejudice and discrimination.

Volunteer Committee (Representing almost 20 different organizations and institutions)

Carl Cadogan

leroy@lusocentre.org;

Mercy Nleya

Rita Giroux-Patience

Christina Lord

Speciose.Mukakamanzi

Jean Pierre Cantin

Silence Genti

Lana.Winchester-Tucker

Scholastica Ashchop

Saleha Khan

Alisha Moser

Fanny Newport

Gabrielle Laurin

Katherine Dann

Sara Sale

Vilma Francois

Black history refers to the stories, experiences, and accomplishments of people of African origin. Black history did not begin in recent times in Canada, but in ancient times in Africa. People connected by their common African history and ancestry have created Black history here. The African-Canadian population is made up of individuals from a range of places across the globe including the United States, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Canada.

The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the [Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month](#). It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

In 2002, the first meeting was held to plan and coordinate Black History Month in London and in 2003 work began in earnest by a group of individuals to launch the first event in London.

In 2020, the start of a new decade, LBHCC will be launching the 18th Black History Month Celebration in London and we invite everyone to attend.



Issuance of Proclamations Policy

Policy Name: Issuance of Proclamations Policy

Legislative History: Adopted September 19, 2017 (By-law No. CPOL.-115-367); Amended July 24, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-115(a)-418)

Last Review Date: January 6, 2020

Service Area Lead: City Clerk

1. Policy Statement

1.1 This policy sets out the requirements for the issuance of proclamations.

2. Definitions

2.1 Not applicable.

3. Applicability

3.1 This policy shall apply to any request for the issuance of proclamations on behalf of the City of London.

4. The Policy

4.1. Proclamations are ceremonial documents issued and signed by the Mayor on behalf of City of London Council that officially recognizes public awareness campaigns; charitable fundraising campaigns; and arts and cultural celebrations of organizations that reside/operate within the City of London. The requester must clearly identify the significance and connection of the proclamation to the mandate and goals as set out in the City of London's Strategic Plan. A proclamation does not constitute a personal or civic endorsement.

Application Process

- a) Proclamations requests are to be submitted on the City of London Application form to the City Clerk's Office at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date.
- b) The Application must provide sufficient background information about the organization, cause or event being proclaimed and the proposed text for inclusion in the proclamation. The proposed text is subject to approval by the City of London to ensure compliance with City of London's policies and by-laws.
- c) Upon receipt of the Application, the City Clerk's Office will review the Application in accordance with this Policy and if the Application appears to be in compliance with the Policy, the Application will be placed on the next available Corporate Services Committee meeting for consideration.
- d) The Corporate Services Committee will review the Application and provide a recommendation to the Municipal Council for consideration with respect to the disposition of the Applications.

SCHEDULE "A"

Administration of Policy:

- e) The cause or event must contribute to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the City of London.
- f) Repeat requests must be submitted on an annual basis.
- g) An organization may request one proclamation per calendar year.
- h) Organization do not have exclusive rights to the day, week, or month being proclaimed.
- i) Proclamations of a similar topic will be issued on a first come first served basis.
- j) The City of London will not incur any expenses relating to the advertising or promotion of a proclamation. Recipients are responsible for the promotion of the proclamation, organization of related activities and for all associated costs.
- k) Proclamations will not be issued for:
 - Matters of political controversy, ideological or religious beliefs or individual conviction.
 - Events or organizations with no direct connection to the City of London.
 - Campaigns or events contrary to City of London policies or by-laws.
 - National, Independence or Republic Days.
 - Campaign or events intended for profit-making purposes.
 - Recognition of individuals.
 - Recognition of events or organizations that espouse discrimination, hatred, violence or racism.
 - Matters attempting to influence government policy.
 - Matters designed to incite hatred or disorder.
- l) The City of London reserves the right to refuse to issue a proclamation.