

Delegation

Summary of Transcript

Background

The following paragraphs are from the Minutes of the January 20th Committee of the Whole meeting: <https://pub-brampton.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=15839>

Regional Councillor Medeiros provided information to Committee regarding recent events that occurred in Sri Lanka, whereby a Tamil memorial monument was destroyed at a university. Councillor Medeiros advised that Members of the Brampton Tamil community have expressed an interest in erecting a monument in Brampton, in dedication to the contributions of the Tamil community.

The Motion: CW041-2021

Whereas The City of Brampton is home to a diverse population deserving of recognition; and Whereas according to the 2016 census, Brampton is home to more than 4660 Tamils; and Whereas Brampton's Tamil community has made significant contributions to the City of Brampton's growth in the areas of business, arts, and culture; and Whereas by constructing a monument, the City of Brampton recognizes the contributions of the Tamil community and celebrates its rich culture; Therefore Be It Resolved that The City of Brampton work with the Brampton Tamil Seniors Association and the Brampton Tamil Association to locate a city park or facility to construct a monument; and 36 That staff also investigate potential funding contributions from federal and provincial government sources.

Speech and the presentation

Good morning His worship Mayor Patrick Brown and the members of the Council. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Sena Munasinghe, I'm the President of Sri Lanka Canada Association of Brampton. We are a community organization for Bramptonians with Sri Lankan origin. I'm here to voice the Sri Lankan communities' concern about the motion passed by this Council to support the erecting of a monument to recognize the contributions made by the Sri Lankan Tamil community to Brampton. The motion passed seems great. Unfortunately, the media publicity given to that decision speaks otherwise, which is in stark contrast to the Brampton 2040 vision of living the mosaic. Therefore, we are compelled to speak up to ensure that our elected representatives do not go against the long-term vision of the city.

Go to Slide 2: MOSAIC

Sri Lankas community in Brampton consists of Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burgers and Malays. We are all Sri Lankans. We all have contributed to the culture and the economic prosperity of this City. The armed conflict in Sri Lanka has impacted all of us the same way irrelevant of our race, religion or any other difference. So, we are here to promote co-existence,

reconciliation and harmony in the beautiful flower city of Brampton. Let's not divide the community but unite.

Go to Slide 3: 2040 Vision

I like to read a quote directly from Brampton's 2040 Vision Executive Summary page 3: READ from the SLIDE

The City Council has a rare opportunity to bring the Sri Lankan community together. Let's work together in unity to build a monument that represent the contributions made by all Sri Lankans: Tamils, Sinhalese, Muslims, Burgers and Malays. We are ready to work with you, the Council, the City administration and our brothers and sisters in the community to be an example and to promote unity, equity, inclusion and harmony. We live in a world with many conflicts, it is up to us to make harmonious peace. This is a rare moment in our history and in Brampton's history to bring a lasting peace upon the Sri Lankan community living in Brampton. If you take the right step towards peace and harmony today, I am sure, it will be leadership by example to all communities all conflicts and all regions. I request you to take that action with conviction and pride. With your support, we can unite the community in Brampton and not divide.

Let Brampton be the shining beacon of inclusivity. Let's lead by example!

Go to slide #4: 2016 census extracts

I'd like to highlight 2 core principles from the City's website regarding "Living the MOSAIC": Read from the slide.

Go to slide #5: Top 10 places of Birth for Immigrants

Read from the slide

Go to slide #6: Original motion

Read from the slide

Go to slide #7: Armed conflict in Sri Lanka

Statement of relevant facts. Not elaborating. Happy to clarify if needed.

Go to slide #8: Damage of building a monument for one group affected by war

We mourn all loss of life due to this unfortunate conflict. By constructing a monument for only one ethnic group out of all who suffered equally is against the city of Brampton vision. It would bring back trauma to other ethnic groups who also suffered for 3 decades.

Go to slide #9: Inclusivity

Slide says it all!

Go to slide #10: Request - 1

Read from the slide

Our request is to build a monument for all with the participation of all. We also request that the City of Brampton to take initiatives to make it's 2040 vision a reality.

Go to slide #11 – Request -2

Read from the slide

Go to slide #12 - Closure

On behalf of all Sri Lankans living in Brampton, I Thank You for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.