

**Date:** 2023-09-22

**Subject:** **Request for City Facility Rental Fees to be Waived for Roots Community Services Inc. – Ward 3**

**Contact:** Dave Salt, Manager, Facilities Services and Operations

**Report Number:** Public Works & Engineering-2023-823

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report from Dave Salt, Manager, Facilities Services and Operations to the Committee of Council Meeting of October 11, 2023, re: **Request for City Facility Rental Fees to be Waived for Roots Community Services Inc. – Ward 3**, be received; and
2. That staff be directed to waive the rental fees plus tax in the amount of \$1,469.44 for Roots Community Services Inc. on November 1, 2023, for an event, be approved.

**Overview:**

- **Roots Community Services Inc. (RootsCS) is a community organization that provides culturally sensitive programs and services to Black, African, and Caribbean communities in the Region of Peel.**
- **On November 1, 2023, RootsCS will host a farewell event to celebrate the retirement of Angela Carter at the City Hall Atrium and Conservatory.**
- **Angela Carter, as the executive director of RootsCS, and as a volunteer with various organizations, has worked tirelessly to end systematic barriers that negatively impact Black, African, and Caribbean communities.**
- **The total amount is \$1,469.44 for RootsCS to rent City facilities for the Angela Carter Farewell Event.**
- **City staff do not have the ability to waive rental fees for use of City facilities and require Council approval to waive rental fees.**

- **The waiver of rental fees would be provided "in-kind," with no actual monetary exchange to cover the rental fees. The Public Works & Engineering operating budget will absorb the lost revenue.**

### **Background:**

Since 1985, Roots Community Services Inc. (RootsCS) has provided culturally sensitive and culturally enriching programs to the Black, African and Caribbean communities in the Region of Peel.

RootsCS has partnered with the federal and provincial governments, the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, other community service agencies and businesses to deliver programs and services to individuals and families from Black, African, and Caribbean communities.

Angela Carter is currently the executive director of RootsCS. In her professional life and as a volunteer, she actively advocates for the upliftment of Black and other racialized communities and works tirelessly to break down systemic racism and other barriers that continue to negatively impact members of these communities.

She currently co-chairs the Anti-Black Racism & Systemic Discrimination Collective in the Region of Peel and the Black Health Task Force of Peel as well as represents RootsCS on several committees in Peel, Halton Region and Toronto that are seeking equity and equality for all groups, especially Black communities.

On August 23, 2023, the City received a rental request from RootsCS for the City Hall Atrium and Conservatory for the Angela Carter Farewell Event on November 1, 2023. The event will be a community celebration honouring Angela Carter's tenure as the executive director of RootsCS.

### **Current Situation:**

The City recognizes the leadership and efforts of Angela Carter as both the executive director of RootsCS, and as an active volunteer to various organizations and community advocate in Brampton, across the Region of Peel, and neighbouring Regions and cities.

City staff do not have the ability to waive rental fees and require Council approval to waive the rental fees associated with the Angela Carter Farewell Event for RootsCS.

The event will be subject to the standard rental rules and regulations.

### **Corporate Implications:**

Financial Implications:

The recommendations outlined in this report will result in foregone revenue totaling \$1,469.44. This support would be provided "in-kind," with no actual monetary exchange to cover the rental fees.

**Strategic Focus Area:**

Culture & Diversity: The waiver of rental fees by Council will support Brampton's focus on cultural diversity and building cross-cultural understanding in the City. It will also acknowledge the leadership of Angela Carter at RootsCS, and specifically, her efforts as the executive director to make positive changes in Black, African and Caribbean communities.

**Conclusion:**

This report seeks Council approval to waive the facility rental fees for RootsCS. The total rental fee is \$1,469.44. The lost revenue will be absorbed in the Public Works and Engineering operating budget.

Authored by:

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