

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

AGENDA

Meeting with Rita Davies, Executive Director, Cultural Services and Lori Martin, Senior Cultural Affairs Officer, at City Hall, 9th floor, east tower boardroom 3PM – 4PM.

Martin Gladstone, LL.B
Solicitor, Notary Public

Avi Benlolo
President and CEO
Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies
Toronto

Carol Pasternak MBA, LLB, CPT

Daniel Engel J.D., LL.M
Counsel
Canada, Department of Justice
J.D, LL.M

AGENDA

1. PREFACE AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Who we are: Introductions and backgrounds,
- The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies has commissioned a Report re the rise of anti-Semitism at the Gay Pride Parade
- We represent a larger group of professionals and other concerned persons in different communities.
- A film has been produced re the Pride Parade in Toronto and will be seeking distribution for different venues, Jewish Film Festivals, Gay film festivals and other venues. One part of our group is actively developing a media wing.
- We are setting up meetings with other elected officials in the Federal and Provincial Governments.
- We are going to continue to meet with different levels of City Government.
- Martin Gladstone is going to Ottawa to address the Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Anti-Semitism in on November 23 2009 with the focus on Toronto and the indifference to the rise of anti-Israel advocacy at a gay rights celebration.

- We are working with legal counsel in the area of human rights and administrative law litigation to better understand our legal options and remedies.

POINT:

The matter has been raised before with the City and was ignored. Indifference is no longer an option.

PURPOSE: We want Pride Toronto to abide by the same rules and regulations that govern all not for profits with the use of public money.

- Accountability
- Applications are for the celebration of gay culture, not anti-Israel advocacy.
- The City of Toronto gave Toronto Pride \$119,000.00 as a cultural grant.
- Pride Toronto has not abided by The Declaration of Non-Discrimination.
- Grant money was used for hate messaging, singling out, demonizing.

POINT: The City of Toronto has a responsibility to ensure that grant money it provides is used in accordance with its criteria and guidelines.

POINT: There is no relationship between the celebration of gay pride and anti-Israel advocacy.

3. CITY OF TORONTO GRANT GUIDELINES, ANTI-RACISM POLICIES

The grant money that the City provides is clearly reflected in its guidelines and stated polices as a matter of public record. It is to help promote a healthy fabric for a multi-cultural city.

- Anti-discrimination
- Inclusion – no exclusionary activities
- No racism
- No divisiveness
- Everyone should feel welcome

POINT: Just because it does not meet the criminal standard of hate law in the Criminal Code of Canada does not mean it is acceptable by City of Toronto standards.

POINT: The onus is on CITY to ensure its guidelines are met.

POINT:

The parade is for everyone. Everyone should feel safe.

4. SAFETY AND TOURISM

- The tension in 2009 caused by the inclusion of anti-Israel groups :
- Hate Crimes Unit was involved;
- Parade Marshalls increased from 25 to 80
- Police assigned to stay with and protect Jewish groups;
- Barriers increased to separate parties and groups distanced
- People did not attend out of fear of violence
- Coming back in larger force in 2010 re no garbage strike;
- Negative safety issues and tourism issues.

POINT: The inclusion of anti-Israel messaging and slogans describing Israel as an apartheid nazi state under the guise of human rights serves to create an exclusionary hateful environment and an unsafe space for Jews. It is a recipe for violence.

POINT: The City of Toronto has full knowledge that its funding activities are not in compliance in action or spirit with its stated policies.

POINT: The City cannot claim it did not have knowledge that its funding was contributing to an unsafe and tense environment or that loss to any person or property was not reasonably foreseeable.

5. GOING FORWARD

- a. We want Pride Toronto to abide by the same rules and regulations that govern all not for profits with the use of public money.
- b. We want a safe, inclusionary, hate free, environment at Pride.
- c. We want everyone to feel welcome.
- d. We want grant money to be given only if it complies with the City's stated guidelines in purpose and in spirit.

Our expectation is that the City of Toronto will contact Pride at this early stage as a matter of record and make it clear as a matter of contract and policy that there will be no funding if the anti-Israel messaging and slogans continue.

We expect the City to stop providing public money if there is no halt to the inclusion of groups that marginalize, and demonize others.

We expect the City to appreciate that by being indifferent they come down on the side of the victimizer, not the victims.

We expect the City to take a leadership role.

We expect to have confirmation in a reasonable period of time (December 17 2009) that Pride will abide by the City grant guidelines that govern all not-for –profits.

We expect the City to reaffirm that Pride is for everyone and all have the right to attend free of fear and hate messaging.

POINT:

There is precedent. The Canadian Arab Federation had its federal grant money revoked because it was being used for anti-Israel advocacy and not for the purposes applied for. Other groups have had to be accountable for the use of public money. The same principle applies here.