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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
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Date: 5/12/2021 5:33:38 PM
Subject: Memo: Komagata Maru Remembrance Day and Apology - RTS 013952
Attachments: KomagataMaru_ Memo to Mayor Council - 2021.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of the attached memo is to advise Council of plans to mark Komagata Maru Remembrance Day and issue a formal apology to the individuals and families impacted by the Komagata Maru incident as per Council's motion approved on June 10, 2020 (RTS 013952).

A Proclamation and apology will be read at the start of the Council meeting on May 18, 2021, and that in lieu of an in-person ceremony, an educational and historic video will be produced to tell the story of the City's role in the 1914 incident. The apology will be publicized via a news release and the City's social channels.

Please contact Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk, at Katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca should you have any questions.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməŋəm (Musqueam), ləwəwú 7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

May 12, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts Culture and Community Services
Aftab Erfan, Chief Equity Officer
Wilma Clarke, Assistant Director, Social Policy and Projects Division, ACCS
Lesley Matthews, Chief External Relations and Protocol

FROM: Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

SUBJECT: Komagata Maru Remembrance Day and Apology

RTS #: 013952

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to advise Council of plans to mark Komagata Maru Remembrance Day and issue a formal apology to the individuals and families impacted by the Komagata Maru incident as per Council's motion approved on June 10, 2020.

Background

At the June 10, 2020 Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services, a motion was passed stating:

- A. THAT Council formally apologizes for the injustice of the motion of the June 1914 Council that passed a resolution saying it was "unalterably opposed to the admittance of Hindus and other Asiatic races into this country..." and that "... these people would prove a serious menace to our civilization, both economically and socially ..." and its cruel effects on individuals and families impacted by the Komagata Maru incident.

- B. THAT the City of Vancouver declare, by proclamation, that May 23rd shall be known as “Komagata Maru Remembrance Day” in Vancouver.

Discussion

In the fall of 2020, staff in External Relations and Protocol and Social Policy started working with a volunteer, community-based committee (the Committee), including historians and members of the Komagata Maru Descendants Society (KMDS) to organize a ceremony to proclaim May 23 as Komagata Maru Remembrance Day in the City of Vancouver, and to issue a formal apology from Council to the individuals and families impacted by the Komagata Maru incident.

Due to COVID-19 and the current public health restrictions on public gatherings, the Committee agreed that an in-person ceremony would not be possible. It was agreed that the Proclamation and apology would be read at the start of the Council meeting on May 18, 2021, and that in lieu of an in-person ceremony, an educational and historic video would be produced to tell the story of the City’s role in the 1914 incident. The apology will be publicized via a news release and the City’s social channels.

The video, produced by Kahani Pictures will be approximately 10 minutes in length and include a historic account of the City’s role in the Komagata Maru incident with interviews from historians and members of KMDS. The video will be promoted on the City’s social media channels on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The video will be available on vancouver.ca for public and school groups to view and learn about the incident, as well as on the new screens in the 3rd floor foyer between May and July of each year to show to groups touring City Hall.

It should be noted that the Komagata Maru incident is a part of the larger South Asian apology and redress work arising from the [July 2019 Council Motion to address Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Descent in Vancouver](#). One goal of the larger South Asian apology is to educate decision-makers and the broader public of the human rights violations against people of South Asian descent and the ongoing impact and harm of discriminatory laws, regulations, policies, and practices. The Komagata Maru incident and the video demonstrate these human rights violations and how members of our global and local community continue to feel the impacts of decisions from over a century ago.

The job posting for the South Asian Apology and Cultural Redress Planner in the Social Policy division of Arts Cultural and Community Services is now live and once this position is filled, work on the larger South Asian apology will begin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk, City Clerk’s Office
604-873-7998 | katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca