

Council,
January 16, 1964.

REPORT - DR. ALBERT ROSE RE: AFRICVILLE

The City Clerk advised that at the meeting of Council held on January 2, 1964, consideration of the following recommendations from the Finance and Executive Committee had been deferred in order to give the Committee on Human Rights an opportunity to study the report of Dr. Albert Rose and to make their observations at this meeting:

"The report of Dr. Albert Rose respecting "Africville" was submitted and the conclusions contained therein were considered as follows:

1. Further studies of the Africville area would not assist in the solution to the problem;
2. The City should declare that it will acquire and clear the properties in the Africville area over a period of about two years and nine months under a carefully phased programme;
3. That persons with title to the property either through possession or by deed should be compensated at full market value. This was in accordance with Staff recommendations;
4. That persons who were the apparent owners of structures but with no legal claim to land should be paid a minimum of \$500.00 with additional compensation to be based on family size and/ or marital status.

The Staff Report recommended a flat payment of \$500.00 in these cases as the owners of the structures would have no legal basis on which to claim compensation;

5. That all families displaced as a result of acquisition and clearance should be offered accommodation in regular public housing projects constructed or to be constructed by the City. Doctor Rose advises against the establishment of a special public housing project for the residents of the area. Doctor Rose's recommendations in respect of rehousing coincide with the original Staff Report;
6. Because of the nature of the community, the problems of employment and accommodation, that extraordinary measures should be taken on the matter of guidance and assistance during the gradual re-allocation process. The detail of the type of assistance suggested is set forth within the body of the report.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

(a) that the report of Dr. Albert Rose respecting Africville be approved in principle;

(b) that the City Manager be directed to take the necessary action towards implementation of the specific recommendations contained therein by April 1, 1964;

(c) that the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the draft legislation required to permit implementation of the recommendations."

The following letter was submitted:

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His Worship the Mayor
and Aldermen
City of Halifax
Nova Scotia

Your Worship,
Madam, and Gentlemen:

The Rose Report and its recommendations have been approved unanimously by the Halifax Advisory Committee on Human Rights and by ninety per cent of the residents of Africville who attended a public meeting at Africville held, under the Committee's auspices, on Thursday evening, January 9, 1964.

The Committee would invite attention to its comments about three matters dealt with in the Report:

- (1) The Report reads, on page six, "It is believed that (certain) families will receive a sufficient amount of money as a result of the expropriation proceedings to enable them to meet the down payment requirements in the purchase of suitable older houses in the downtown area." The Committee submits that this sentence should have read, "...to enable them to meet the down payment requirements in the purchase of suitable houses." It is feared that the "suitable older houses in the downtown area" might well prove to be houses in areas slated for early redevelopment and necessitate a further relocation of families now resident in Africville. A concern that this necessity not arise is expressed, indeed, in a statement found elsewhere in the Rose Report: (P.8) "... that Africville families will not be forced, through discrimination in the housing market, to seek accommodation only in those areas slated for redevelopment in the next few years."
- (2) The Committee understands that public housing tenants are not evicted for legitimate inability to pay rent. The Committee trusts that this policy will continue, with reference to families to be relocated from Africville, and that taken into account will be the concern expressed in the Rose Report (P.8) "...that the City of Halifax will guarantee the monthly rental, if necessary, for families admitted to public housing, during a period of readjustment which might be limited to six months."
- (3) The Committee regards as particularly important the Rose Report's recommendation (p.9) concerning the "employment of a trained social worker or social scientist" whose services would assure that Africville families and individuals are given special attention in coping with problems that will arise during the period of transition.

The Halifax Advisory Committee on Human Rights would like to express, at this time, its willingness to co-operate with the City of Halifax (as recommended in the Rose Report, P.9), in working out "the design and staging of the clearance and relocation programme."

Yours very truly,

THE HALIFAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

H. A. J. Wedderburn
CHAIRMAN

Donald F. Maclean
SECRETARY.

His Worship the Mayor invited Mr. Wedderburn, Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights to address the Council.

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Mr. Wedderburn stated that the Rose Report is acceptable to the residents of Africville, but they request that the following additional matter be considered:

That those who will be in the process of buying homes, shall be protected by the City by a written guarantee in case of lapse of payments due to sickness, unemployment or minimum pension so that their position will not be jeopardized.

His Worship the Mayor: "All we are doing tonight is establishing broad principles. We have done so in the matter of compensation and we are going to seek legislation to enable the City to pay compensation where there is clear title. Part of the motion of the Council instructs the Mayor to meet with Provincial and Federal authorities on this matter. I did have one meeting with the Minister of Welfare of the Province and he has requested that we meet regularly over this period. I met with the view of attempting to secure the assistance of the Province so that the compensation may go beyond that recommended by Council. All are prepared to overcome the neglect of many years; and I can assure you that we are prepared to do everything we can to make this move as painless as possible, and try to look after the people as best we can within our resources, and beyond our resources."

Alderman O'Brien felt that steadier and more satisfactory progress could be made on the Africville problem if a Committee were appointed composed of members of Council, staff members and representatives of the Committee on Human Rights. He contended that since this is the kind of development where the lines of policy and administration cross back and forth, that separate approaches to it would not enhance the development of the finer points brought forward by Dr. Rose.

His Worship the Mayor stated that Alderman O'Brien had made an excellent suggestion, and he agreed that it would be wise to have a continuing look at the problem because many other problems will arise which the staff will not be able to handle by reason of their terms of reference.

MOVED by Alderman O'Brien, seconded by Alderman Lane, that an Advisory Committee be appointed, composed of members of Council, staff members and representatives of the Committee on Human Rights, to consider the recommendations contained in the Rose Report; and to report to Council with recommendations as to the phasing of the whole program.

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His Worship the Mayor stated that any person who wished to speak on the matter before Council, would be heard at this time.

Mr. Leon Steed, resident of Africville and a member of the Committee on Human Rights, stated that he had been approached by a number of the older residents of Africville who questioned their own ability to maintain payments on new properties and to pay the high rent plus service charges in Federal-Provincial housing projects because of their low incomes.

His Worship the Mayor: "I think that if this is kept under continuous study, we can overcome the problem by extraordinary actions, and I think Council is prepared to take extraordinary action. We cannot discuss individual cases tonight but we are attempting to start to correct this housing problem; and I have faith in Council that they will support the recommendations from the Advisory Committee to help overcome the problems that arise in making the move."

The motion was then passed.

The following Resolution was submitted:

WHEREAS City Council has received a report dated July 23, 1962 from City Staff recommending certain steps to be taken for the removal of unsatisfactory housing conditions in the Africville area.

AND WHEREAS City Council has received a further report dated December 6, 1963 from Doctor Albert Rose of the School of Social Work at the University of Toronto dealing with the same subject.

AND WHEREAS Doctor Rose's report agrees with the basic suggestions of the aforesaid report of July 23, 1962 but recommends additional assistance to the residents of the area during a phased reallocation process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Council approve, accept, and confirm the recommendations contained in the Staff Report of July 23, 1962 and Doctor Rose's report of December 6, 1963.
2. That City Council instruct the City Solicitor to prepare permissive legislation for submission to the 1964 session of the Nova Scotia Legislature which will permit the City to compensate in an equitable manner the apparent owners of properties in the Africville area, such legislation to include but not to restrict the generality of the foregoing:
 - (a) that the City may pay the market value to those apparent owners who hold unclear title to lands and buildings in the Africville Area, so-called; and
 - (b) that the City may pay an amount of not less than five hundred dollars but not more than fifteen hundred dollars to the apparent owners of buildings in the Africville Area, so-called, but who have no title to the lands on which such buildings are located.

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3. That City Council authorize His Worship the Mayor to approach the Provincial Government and the Federal Government to determine if either or both Governments would be prepared to bear all or a portion of the costs to the City of undertaking the programme set forth in Clauses 1 and 2 of this Resolution.

Alderman O'Brien questioned the \$1,500.00 limit provided in Clause 2(b) of the Resolution and contended that inclusion of the restrictive figure places the Council in an inflexible position as far as compensation is concerned.

The City Solicitor stated that in accordance with instructions received at the January 2 meeting of Council, he had prepared draft legislation which is permissive in character and does not contain any restrictive limits as to amounts. The legislation will be submitted to Council in due course.

MOVED by Alderman O'Brien, seconded by Alderman Trainor, that Clause 2(b) of the Resolution be amended by deleting the words "but not more than fifteen hundred dollars". Motion passed.

MOVED by Alderman Trainor, seconded by Alderman O'Brien, that the Resolution as amended be approved. Motion passed.

REMUNERATION FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR

The City Clerk reported that action on the following recommendation of the Finance and Executive Committee, and Resolution had been deferred at the January 2, 1964, meeting of Council:

It is recommended that the indemnity paid to the Mayor be adjusted from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 per annum with effect from January 1, 1964, and that provision for such adjustment be made in the 1964 Budget.

Alderman A. M. Butler, presented a formal Resolution, as follows, and moved the adoption of same:

WHEREAS by subsection (3) of Section 8 of the Halifax City Charter, 1931, the City Council of the City of Halifax may from time to time by resolution determine the remuneration to be paid to the Mayor;

AND WHEREAS by subsection (3) of Section 9 of the said City Charter, the City Council of the City of Halifax may from time to time by resolution determine the honorarium to be paid to the Deputy Mayor during the period in which he holds such office, in addition to the indemnity or compensation which he receives as an alderman;

AND WHEREAS by subsection (1) of Section 10A of the said City Charter, the City Council of the City of Halifax may from time to time by resolution determine the indemnity or compensation to be paid to each Alderman of the City;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the remuneration to be paid to the Mayor of the City of Halifax for the period January 1, 1964 to December 31, 1964, shall be at the rate of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) per annum.