

Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) News Release

Address: 995 Arrow Rd, North York, ON M9M 2Z5

Phone:(416) 746-5772 info@jcaontario.org

Stop Carding Now

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The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is speaking out against the police practice of carding.

In a resolution passed by its members at their Annual General Meeting on May 31st 2015, the JCA's official position is that the practice of Police Carding violates the human rights of citizens and it goes against the principles of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The JCA is offended by the notion of police being able to casually and routinely stop law abiding citizens, outside of police investigations of actual criminal acts that have occurred, to question and record, and then store personal data in police files. The JCA is deeply distressed that Toronto residents of colour are subjected to this invasion of their privacy when the overwhelming majority of other citizens are not.

This disposition is not intended to interfere with the common police practice of conducting criminal investigations in order to apprehend criminals in the interest of public safety. Rather, it seeks to correct an injustice that harms police/community relations, and damages the reputation of our police service and the city it serves.

Torontonians need to oppose carding vehemently due to it's debilitating impact on our neighbours and it sends a message of hopelessness to young people of color. The JCA cannot and will not accept this for any group or community in our city.

We cannot allow an environment of anger and distrust of our police to exist and fester in our city, particularly among the African Canadian and other racial minority communities. We also do not need a new generation of Torontonians growing up to believe our police are their adversaries.

If this demeaning practice of selected carding is not terminated quickly, it will irreversibly divide and separate our various communities and cultures. Toronto must be a city where every citizen is treated equally and justly.

We urge Mayor John Tory, Alok Mukherjee, Chair of the Police Services Board and Mark Saunders, Chief of Police to immediately cease the practice of carding. And we call on all citizens of this city to step forward and make known their distaste of this practice on law abiding citizens.

We cannot sit back and allow this to undermine everything we teach our children about Canada being a fair and equal society.

We are committed to a Toronto that is inclusive, diverse, welcoming, and respectful, and carding does not fit that vision.

We are also encouraged that many Torontonians and a group like the prominent citizens of **Concerned Citizens to End Carding** are in agreement and share this view to end this practice.

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