

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date : 1 March 2016 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u> <u>(pm)</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u> <u>(pm)</u>
Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie	4:20	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chi-chung, Dominic	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chung-sing, Patrick	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KU Kwai-yiu	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	2:30	end of meeting
Ms LI Chun-chau	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEE Chun-keung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Sum-lim	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Kei-tung, George	2:40	end of meeting
Ms LAM Chui-lin, Alice, MH	3:20	end of meeting
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUNG Lin-cham	3:20	end of meeting
Mr CHUI Chi-kin	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Howard	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Siu-sun, Patrick	2:30	5:00
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, David	2:30	5:05
Ms LEUNG Wing-man, Bonnie	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUI Lam-hing	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUI Ching-on	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Aron	3:40	5:00
Mr MAK Tak-ching	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-pan, MH, JP (Chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-hing	2:30	4:30
Mr YEUNG Sze-chun	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHIU Ka-yin, Andrew	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHIU Chi-keung (Vice-chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAU Hing-yeung	2:30	end of meeting
Ms CHOY So-yuk, BBS, JP	2:50	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Chi-sing	2:35	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Tat-hung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAI Chi-keong, Joseph	2:30	end of meeting
Mr NGAN Chun-lim, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LO Wing-kwan, Frankie, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KUNG Pak-cheung, MH	2:30	end of meeting

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In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Ms TENG Yu-yan, Anne, JP	District Officer (Eastern), Eastern District Office
Ms AU Tsz-kwan, Fiona	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 1, Eastern District Office
Mr LAI Ho-chun, Samuel	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 2, Eastern District Office
Mr Graham MITCHELMORE	District Commander (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KU Siu-fai	Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TSE Chick-lam	Chief Manager/Management (KWH), Housing Department
Mr WONG Yuet-chung	Senior Housing Manager/KWH 3, Housing Department
Mr LEE Man-ho	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr WONG Wai-leung	Chief Health Inspector 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LIU Wai-shing, Simon	Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LOK Mee-mee, Mimi	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TANG Yuet-kum, Rosanna	Senior Liaison Officer (1) Eastern District Office
Mr LAU Wai-lun, Eddie	Senior Liaison Officer (2) Eastern District Office
Ms KONG Kei-kei, Hayley	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) Eastern District Office

Secretary

Ms LEE Shuk-han, Phoebe	Acting Senior Executive Officer (District Council) Eastern District Council
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and Government representatives to the meeting.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the First Eastern District Council Meeting

2. Mr Andrew CHIU opined that the minutes of meeting did not record in details the platforms of the candidates running for the Chairman and the Vice-chairman posts as well as his congratulations and expectations to the Chairman and Vice-chairman elected.

3. The Chairman responded that the minutes of meeting only briefly recorded

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Councillors' speeches and asked the Secretariat to note member's views.

4. The meeting agreed that no amendments were needed for the above draft minutes and the minutes were confirmed accordingly.

II. Discussion on the 2016 Policy Address

III. Report of Progress of the Implementation of District-led Actions Scheme in Eastern District (EDC Paper No. 7/16)

5. Since the two agenda items were both related to the 2016 Policy Address, the Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to discuss them altogether.

6. The Chairman said that the Policy Address which had been announced on 13 January was sent to Councillors. It was mentioned in the Policy Address that the Government would allocate more resources to District Councils to promote the building of an age-friendly community at district level. The Culture, Leisure, Community Building and Services Committee of the Eastern District Council (EDC) would follow up on the issue in a timely manner.

7. Ms Hayley KONG, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the Eastern District Office introduced EDC Paper No. 7/16.

8. The views and queries of 16 Councillors about the issue were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr Dominic WONG remarked that as the rainy season was approaching, he hailed the Government's priority treatment of the mosquito problem in the district through the District-led Actions Scheme so as to prevent communicable diseases. He also supported the Government in the building of an age-friendly community to address the aging problem in the district and benefit elderly people.
- (b) Mr Patrick WONG was dissatisfied that the Policy Address had laid too much stress on the investment, business opportunity and employment generated by the "Belt and Road Initiative" and lost sight of basic bread and butter issues such as the "universal retirement protection scheme" and welfare policy for elderly people etc. He also opined that the Chief Executive (CE) did not make good his manifesto and failed to protect the rights and interests of local workers by abolishing the use of Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) to offset the severance payments and long service payments (commonly known as "the offsetting arrangement"). He was not satisfied with the Policy Address.
- (c) Mr WONG Kin-hing was pleased to see the improvement of the "Disability Allowance" system by the Government, allowing people with loss of one limb to apply for the Disability Allowance and enjoy public transport fare concession. However, he opined that the Policy Address had not paid enough attention to labour issues and he hoped the Government could implement the selection of the CE by universal

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suffrage as soon as possible so that issues of workers' concerns could be solved.

- (d) Mr KU Kwai-yiu supported the idea of improving environmental hygiene and fighting against mosquito breeding through the District-led Actions Scheme. He held the view that the Policy Address neglected the needs of elderly people as it did not provide more medical and other benefits for them. He also opined that the Government should not inject money to the Scholarship Fund to encourage students from the Belt and Road countries to study in Hong Kong. Instead, the Government should devote more resources in local youth development and provide more subsidies to local students with a view to grooming local talents
- (e) Mr LAM Sum-lim suggested the Government leverage on the economic opportunities generated by the "Belt and Road Initiative", formulate policies conducive to the development of Hong Kong, and enhance support to the middle class. He supported departments to handle the mosquito problem in the district through the District-led Actions Scheme to enhance the efficiency of anti-mosquito work. He also supported the Government's effort to build an age-friendly community and a better living environment as a pay back to elderly who had made contribution to the district.
- (f) Mr CHUI Chi-kin opined that since the sitting CE was not elected through universal suffrage, it was difficult for his Policy Address to win public support. The Policy Address had attached too much importance to the "Belt and Road Initiative", with additional resources devoted to attract overseas students to study in Hong Kong while inadequate support (including the universal retirement protection scheme) was given to local students and elderly people. He suggested the Government strengthen the promotion on the "universal retirement protection scheme" and work out redevelopment plans for public estates such as Yue Wan Estate as soon as possible. He was not satisfied with the Policy Address.
- (g) Mr Howard CHEUNG enquired about the operation and composition of the Eastern District Management Committee (EDMC), on concerns that the failure of EDMC to fully relay Councillors' views might result in an uneven distribution of resources to district projects. He continued to express his discontent towards the Policy Address on the grounds that it had put too much emphasis on the "Belt and Road Initiative" and overlooked the formulation of important livelihood-related policies such as the pilot schemes of the Urban Renewal Authority, "anti-bid rigging" policy, greening and urban development policies etc. He was not satisfied with the Policy Address.
- (h) Mr David LEUNG pointed out that the Policy Address did not abolish the offsetting arrangement of using MPF to offset the severance payments and long service payments; nor did it improve the arrangement of "labour holidays". He deemed the Policy Address

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unsatisfactory as it did not take heed of the needs of the working class.

- (i) Mr Andrew CHIU took exception to the Policy Address for it gave too much weight to the “Belt and Road Initiative” and did nothing to play to Hong Kong’s strength as an international financial centre. It seemed that the CE was trying to butter up the Mainland Government so that he could have better chance of success in his running for a re-election. He was dissatisfied with the Government’s effort to encourage overseas students to study in Hong Kong while little consideration was given to the employment and career prospect of local students. He also worried that innovation and technology policies might give rise to all kinds of transfer of benefits. He also criticised that the Government had no plan to increase the places in aided standalone child care centres in the short run; nor did it attach great importance to cross-border enforcement and co-location issues under “One Country, Two Systems”. It lacked the determination to protect the interests of Hong Kong people. He continued that the Policy Address mentioned little about poverty alleviation and elderly care policies and suggested the Government formulate policies to toughen law enforcement on “bid-rigging” and enhance support to property owners. As a whole, the wellbeing of Hong Kong people was not the prime concern of the Policy Address and this worried Hong Kong people. He also asked the EDMC to fully consult Councillors’ views when implementing the District-led Actions Scheme.
- (j) Mr YEUNG Sze-chun believed that the Government should devote more resources to the development of local youth and attract more young people to join the Commission on Youth so as to strengthen its advisory role. He also suggested the Government improve the articulation pathways for local students, solve the “bid-rigging” problem as well as provide more resources for the formulation of elderly policies for the long run. He was pleased to see the Government’s active coordination with and participation in the 13th Five-Year Plan as well as the “Belt and Road Initiative”. He hoped the Government would tap into the potential of Mainland market when developing the finance and tourist industries of Hong Kong.
- (k) Mr MAK Tak-ching pointed out that public rating towards the Policy Address had hit a record low as indicated by the results of opinion surveys. He cited standard working hours and the use of MPF to offset the severance payments and long service payments as examples, pointing out that the Government had failed to meet public aspirations and improve labour policies. Moreover, in the Policy Address the housing, education and elderly policies were not optimised; the public housing supply target remained unchanged, the prospect of 15-year free education looked distant and the universal retirement protection scheme lost its original meaning. And, to cap it all, the Policy Address did not spell out the plan for constitutional development. In view of this, he was not satisfied with the Policy Address.
- (l) Mr CHENG Tat-hung pointed out that the sitting CE did not honour

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his election pledge and pay no attention to issues like the offsetting arrangement of the MPF, standard working hours, universal retirement protection schemes etc. He expressed discontent with the Policy Address for it laid too much emphasis on the 13th Five-Year Plan and the “Belt and Road Initiative”; encouraged overseas students to study in Hong Kong while there was no plan to increase university places for local students; failed to respond to the housing needs of Hong Kong people by ditching the “Hong Kong Property for Hong Kong People” policy; disregard the need for environmental protection by implementing the Charter on External Lighting instead of imposing statutory control on light pollution. He held the view that the District-led Actions Scheme might also deal with other district problems instead of just strengthening anti-mosquito work.

- (m) Mr KUNG Pak-cheung said that the District-led Actions Scheme could lift the efficiency of solving district problems. He hoped that the Government could in the long run provide more resources to districts so as to keep following up on district problems.
- (n) Mr Stanley HO supported the idea of stepping up the anti-mosquito work through the District-led Actions Scheme. He suggested that to ease the worries of the public, the Government might also consider monitoring the anti-mosquito work of property management companies of private housing estates on top of strengthening the anti-mosquito work carried out at government sites. Besides, he opined that severance payments, long service payments and MPF were labour rights of different nature; they should not affect or offset each other. He hoped the Government could improve the existing system so as to enhance retirement protection for the working class.
- (o) Mr Joseph LAI opined that there was room for improvement for health care system and he suggested abolishing the Drug Formulary with a view to lessening the burden of the grassroots. He also criticised existing Government services including the excessively long waiting time for specialist out-patient services, residential care services for the elderly and public rental housing (PRH); the stalling of PRH redevelopment; and the faulty early childhood education system. He suggested the Government listen to Councillors’ views and redouble its efforts to improve people’s livelihood.
- (p) The Vice-chairman was pleased to see the Government build an age-friendly community and care more about the daily needs of the elderly. He also welcomed the Government’s effort to deal with mosquito problem in the district through the District-led Actions Scheme to prevent communicable diseases. In the absence of social consensus regarding some labour issues including the offsetting arrangements of MPF and “labour holidays”, he understood that to avoid divergence of views in the society, the Government might not be able to implement the policies concerned at this stage.

9. The District Officer (Eastern) explained the composition and terms of reference of EDMC and gave supplementary information about the

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implementation progress of the District-led Actions Scheme.

10. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked members to note the implementation progress of the District-led Actions Scheme and requested the Secretariat to relay Councillors' views on the Policy Address to relevant Government departments.

IV. Strong Condemnation of Violent Acts and Request for Severe Punishment to Rioters (EDC Paper No. 8/16)

11. Mr HUNG Lin-cham introduced EDC Paper No. 8/16 and Mr MITCHELMORE, District Commander (Eastern District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) gave a brief account of what had happened that day.

12. Councillors declared interest as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest declared</u>
Mr HUI Lam-hing	Retired police officer
Mr KUNG Pak-cheung	His brother was a retired Senior Superintendent of Police

13. The views of 29 Councillors on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr CHENG Tat-hung opined that the conflicts distressed people of Hong Kong and he opposed the use of violence. However, as the incident also mirrored the discontent of young people towards the existing system, public officers should reflect deeply on the existing democratic system and rule of law. He held the view that the EDC should not pass rash judgement on the incident by using words like "severe punishment", "rioters" and "erosion of the rule of law" before a ruling was handed down by a judge. He did not support the motion.
- (b) Mr Joseph LAI reckoned that the root of the problem was the deep-lying conflict between the government bureaucracy and the public as well as the cultural difference between Hong Kong and the Mainland. He quoted a local scholar as saying that Hong Kong people had lost confidence in the future and he worried that a second round of mass emigration could be looming. He also pointed out that the result of the New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election signalled the heightened sense of crisis of Hong Kong people and he believed that the motion failed to reflect social reality.
- (c) Mr NGAN Chun-lim said that Hong Kong was a society that upheld the rule of law and nobody should express his views by means of violence. The incident was a severe breach of the peace, with hundreds of police officers and reporters got hurt. His heart ached for this. He subscribed to the idea that stringent penalties should be imposed on rioters and that violent acts should be condemned to avoid recurrence of similar incidents.
- (d) Mr Frankie LO frowned on some members of the public who had

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confounded right with wrong and whitewashed the violent acts. He hoped that frontline police officers would condone no violence and enforce law with resolve in the future.

- (e) Mr HUI Lam-hing cited Shek Kong riot as an example, pointing out that as times went by police officers nowadays showed more restraint and tolerance than their counterparts did in the past. He hoped the Government would promise severe punishment for those who had disrupted social order to prevent violent incidents from recurring.
- (f) Mr MAK Tak-ching took the 1967 incident as an example, pointing out that the riot broke out against a background of serious labour disputes and social unfairness. He opined that many young people felt oppressed by the policies of the current-term government and he suggested the Government restart constitutional reform and improve its policies with a view to alleviating public grievances. He believed that the EDC should not criticise the riot mindlessly without making any analysis on it.
- (g) The Hon Aron KWOK opined that as representatives of public opinion, Councillors should bear in mind the wellbeing of the society as a whole and condemn the riot even if they had different political views. He did not support the conclusion of equating the condemnation of violent acts with the condemnation of Police's violent acts; nor did he support solving problems by means of violence. He hoped the society would work together to advise the Government and help improving its policies.
- (h) Mr Andrew CHIU reckoned that the policies of the current-term Government had been out of step with public expectations. Universal suffrage looked distant. The sitting CE had repeatedly adulated Mainland Government and ignored the interest of Hong Kong people. He used a simile invented by a former Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, pointing out that Hong Kong was losing its unique culture. He hoped that all parties could maintain peaceful relations and that the Government could improve its policies to avoid social resistance. Moreover, he also denounced some political organisations for their roles in the 1967 incident and adduced the District Councils Ordinance to support his claim that Councillors' right to speak was protected by the law.
- (i) Miss Bonnie LEUNG said that she, a Hong Kong people, did not want to see any violent conflict and felt sad for the injured members of the public, reporters and police officers. She continued that in the absence of objective truth, the EDC should not tag the incident with labels as "rioters" and "riot" and condemn it. She reckoned that the distrust in the current-term Government was the main cause for this violent incident and politicians should reflect upon this in a humble manner.
- (j) Mr David LEUNG expressed his support for the law enforcing officers and reporters working at that chaotic scene as revealed by news

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footages. He disagreed with some members of the public over their effort to explain the violent acts away with various pretexts. He opined that those who had disrupted social order of Hong Kong, threatened other people's lives and committed scaremongering should be punished by the law. To maintain stability and make Hong Kong a better place to live and work in, the Government should bring down the full force of the law and give heavy punishment to rioters so as to consolidate the core values of Hong Kong. He supported the Police to enforce law in an impartial manner and expressed dissatisfaction with the criticisms made by a Councillor towards some political organisations.

- (k) Mr Patrick LEUNG said that the Government policies were the cause of the mounting public discontent. He opined that the Government should reflect deeply on the underlying causes of the incident and listen carefully to public views. He hoped the Government would investigate the incident impartially and nobody should pass judgement on the incident before there was a court ruling.
- (l) Mr Howard CHEUNG said that the EDC was not empowered to rule on the incident and decided whether the protestors had fallen foul of the law. He supported the setting up of a commission chaired by a judge and hoped that the court would deliver judgements in the light of evidences and the law. He also asked the CE to address social aspirations.
- (m) Mr CHUI Chi-kin said that he was present at the scene and the participation of young people in the incident saddened him. He objected to the use of violence and held the view that there must be causes behind all these. He hoped that an independent commission presided by a High Court Judge could be set up to investigate the underlying causes and that mindless condemnations should be shunned.
- (n) Mr HUNG Lin-cham said that as a parent and an educator, he hoped the next generation could live in a safe and harmonious society instead of one with violence or fear. He reckoned that nobody should resort to violence in a society ruled by law regardless of whether Government policies were to blame for the incident or not. He opined that there was no excuse for such social violence and hoped the public would think over the impact on our next generation if we condoned violence.
- (o) Mr SHIU Ka-fai welcomed people of different political views to express their ideas in a peaceful fashion. He believed that violence was not an option no matter there was a reason behind it or not. He took the Islamic State as an example, pointing out that it was irrational to scare people to their fold by violent means and that the society should not tolerate this. He believed the judge would hand down a fair judgement for the incident and convict the lawbreakers. Moreover, he made clear that he did not support the oral statement made by Mr CHIU Andrew.

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- (p) Mr George LAM reflected public views, pointing out that the general public found the violent acts unacceptable and frowned on the causes behind them. He deemed necessary to condemn the incident and stop similar ones from happening in the future.
- (q) Mr LAM Sum-lim expressed his deep resignation to the shielding of rioters by some Councillors with various excuses. He quoted the views of many members of the public, pointing out that the society had to stop such irresponsible violent acts. He hoped a stable and peaceful society could be built for the next generation and urged all of us to uphold our ethics and view the incident in the right perspective. Otherwise, such incidents would happen again.
- (r) Mr Dominic WONG supported the motion of the paper and hoped Councillors would lead by example and educate the public on the importance of solving problem in a civil and peaceful manner. He said that the general public was angered by the violent acts and worried that the incident might affect the international status and tourist development of Hong Kong. He held the view that Chinese people should promote traditional Chinese cultures and deal with different views peacefully.
- (s) Mr Patrick WONG said that Councillors attending the meeting did not support violent acts. He expressed sympathies to public officers who were injured when carrying out duties at that day. Nevertheless, he opined that the serious disturbance was a kind of social conflict resulting from hawker management problems. It was an indication of the extreme dissatisfaction of Hong Kong people towards government policies and they should not be simply described as “rioters”. He hoped that an independent commission presided by a judge would be set up to probe into the incident and make feasible recommendations to promote social advancement.
- (t) Mr KU Kwai-yiu believed that Government policies had exacerbated public grievances which led to the riot. He disagreed with the tagging of label as “rioters” to people arrested before any judgements were handed down by the court. Moreover, he held the view that it was unfair to the public since the Police was praised despite the fact that it had also resorted to violence when enforcing the law.
- (u) Mr Stanley HO said that as a parent, he did not want Hong Kong to become a chaotic mess in the future and he hoped that the society could solve disputes peacefully. He was against the use of violence and hoped that such incidents would not happen in the district again. He agreed that the case should be judged by the court and lawbreakers be brought to justice. He also expressed dissatisfaction with the criticisms made by a Councillor towards some political organisations.
- (v) Ms LI Chun-chau said that regardless of political stance, nobody should confound right with wrong; nor should they support violent acts. She grieved over the injury of law enforcement officers at that day and

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hoped our society would uphold the rule of law for the sake of Hong Kong's future.

- (w) Mr LEE Chun-keung remarked that regardless of political stance, we should all agree that those were violent acts which had injured many police officers and reporters. He held the view that violent acts should be condemned roundly so as to protect the interests of Hong Kong.
- (x) Mr Eddie TING quoted a newspaper article as saying that according to the hawkers the enforcement action of FEHD had nothing to do with the incident. He held the view that rioters should not take that as an excuse to escalate the conflict; nor should they exculpate themselves by lying blame on Government policies. He roundly condemned the riot with a view to stopping similar incidents from happening again, safeguarding Hong Kong's core values, and maintaining public safety and order.
- (y) Mr YEUNG Sze-chun understood that young people wanted to take to the streets and voice their dissatisfaction. However, they should not cross the moral line and hurt others even though Government policies required improvement. He supported the direction pointed out in the paper and would like to strengthen communication with young people so as to narrow the divide.
- (z) Mr LAU Hing-yeung said that anti-government protests were not uncommon around the world. From media coverage it was obvious that the incident was violent in nature and should be condemned. He hoped the society could recognise the root of the problem and prevent similar incidents from happening again.
- (aa) Mr KUNG Pak-cheung opined that under no circumstances should anybody hurt the others. He was pleased to see that police officers did not shoot at the crowd and he asked the Police to give an account on the guidelines governing the use of guns of Police officers.
- (bb) The Vice-chairman said that tools were transported to the scenes by vans and law enforcement officers were set upon by rioters as shown in news footage. He reckoned that the police officer had exercised restraint by firing shots into the air only. He also asked whether Councillors were liable for the misrepresentation and defamation made by them.
- (cc) The Chairman grieved over the injury of police officers and reporters and called for all Hong Kong people to reflect on the incident. He condemned violent acts and advocated the maintenance of rule of law, in the hope of preventing violence from rearing its head and of building a civilised society for the next generation.

14. In response to Councillors' views and enquiries, Mr MITCHELMORE, District Commander (Eastern District) of the HKPF, replied as follows:

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- (a) A large number of rioters unlawfully assembled at a number of streets in Mong Kok during the riot, committing acts of arson at various locations, maliciously damaging Government properties and Police vehicles and ignoring safety of others. They attacked police officers on duty as well as media workers covering the incident; seriously disrupted social order and threatened public safety; and the incident eventually turned into riot. If there was any act endangering personal safety or upsetting public safety and public order, the Police will definitely enforce the law stringently. In case of a riot, the top priority of the Police was to take resolute measures to end the riot as soon as possible, and to restore public order and protect the safety of life and property. The Police was now making full effort to investigate the incident to see whether the riot was a premeditated and organised one and would keep probing the case and gathering evidence in order to bring rioters who were still at large to justice.
- (b) The Police had clear guidelines on and training for the use of force. Police investigations revealed that to protect himself and his fellow officers who were injured and laid on the ground from life-threatening attacks from protestors, a police officer had no choice but to make the decision he deemed right under that circumstances and used his gun according to the Police guidelines on the use of force. That police officer had not breached the guidelines.

15. On behalf of Mr Joseph LAI, Mr Andrew CHIU, Mr Patrick LEUNG, Mr Howard CHEUNG, Mr MAK Tak-ching, Mr KU Kwai-yiu, Mr Patrick WONG, Miss Bonnie LEUNG, Mr CHENG Tat-hung and Mr CHUI Chi-kin, Mr Andrew CHIU made a statement as follows:

“The clashes between the Police and members of the public in Mong Kok at the early hours of 9 February 2016 (the second day of Lunar New Year) stemmed from the inability of the current-term Government to defuse deep-lying social conflicts during the past three and a half years. Pressurised by the “institutional violence” of the Government, the violence got out of hand as the grievances of Hong Kong people boiled over.

With a humble attitude, a responsible Council should reflect upon the causes of social events and find out the truth. It is irresponsible for anybody to see the incident from one perspective only owing to his political stance. We should find out why the public is so discontent with the Government that the touting of fish balls had evolved into a police shooting case. Why the shooting had provoked the protesters instead of deterring them? Why the Police had failed to disperse the crowd who had thrown bricks at police officers?

Before the trial is over and the society can have a better understanding of the incident, we oppose using “the strongest” wordings to condemn anybody; let alone to describe the incident as a “riot”. The use of the above wordings by the Eastern District Council will make the public believe that this Council had become a platform for the pro-establishment camp to give one-sided account of the event which will not help alleviate social grievances and will exacerbate social conflicts. We will walk out

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to protest when the meeting proceed to vote for the motion.

The conflict between the Police and members of the public had caused many injuries on both sides and we sincerely hope for their early recovery. We want to thank in particular some of the police officers who were dedicated, even-handed, unburdened by stance and hatred and have done nothing disgraceful during the riot. We also urge the Police to review its approach in dealing with public events to avoid prompting even more conflicts.

We believe that the incident had shed light on the predicament of Hong Kong. To solve the problem, we have to deal with the fundamental issue by restarting the constitutional reform and implementing policies for the benefits of the public so as to solve the underlying social conflicts.

Finally, we strongly demand the Government to set up immediately an independent commission chaired by a judge with a view to investigating the incident in a fair and impartial manner. In this way, it is hoped that Hong Kong society as a whole can recover as soon as possible while the public can join hands in building a fair and convincing democratic society.”

16. After speaking their minds, 10 of the Councillors left the meeting room while those remaining at their seats continued to proceed with the motion in the paper. They agreed to vote by open ballot and the result was as follows:

Motion

“The Eastern District Council strongly condemns the violent attacks on law enforcement officers and reporters by rioters who played fast and loose with the law, endangered public safety and disrupted social order. We fully support the Police to enforce the law stringently and bring rioters to justice. This Council supports and thanks frontline police officers who faced up to violent acts with determination and dedication and made full effort to maintain social order.”

Mover: Mr HUNG Lin-cham

Seconder: Mr CHIU Chi-keung, Mr Stanley HO, Mr Frankie LO, Mr David LEUNG, Mr HUI Lam-hing, The Hon WONG Kwok-hing, The Hon Aron KWOK, Mr WONG Kin-pan, Mr Eddie TING, Mr Patrick WONG, Mr KUNG Pak-cheung, Mr NGAN Chun-lim, Mr CHENG Chi-sing, Mr LAM Sum-lim, Ms CHOY So-yuk, Mr George LAM, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr LEE Chun-keung, Mr WONG Kin-hing, Ms LI Chun-chau, Mr YEUNG Sze-chun, Mr HUI Ching-on, Ms Alice LAM, Mr LAU Hing-yeung

Result

- 22 Councillors (Mr Eddie TING, Mr Dominic WONG, voted for the Mr Stanley HO, Ms LI Chun-chau, Mr LEE Chun-keung, Ms CHOY So-yuk, motion

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Mr LAM Sum-lim, Mr George LAM, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr HUNG Lin-cham, Mr David LEUNG, Mr WONG Kin-pan, Mr CHIU Chi-keung, Mr HUI Lam-hing, Mr HUI Ching-on, The Hon Aron KWOK, Mr YEUNG Sze-chun, Mr LAU Hing-yeung, Mr CHENG Chi-sing, Mr NGAN Chun-lim, Mr Frankie LO, Mr KUNG Pak-cheung)

- No one voted against the motion
- No one abstained

(The motion was carried.)

17. In his conclusion, the Chairman said that the Secretariat would send the motion to relevant Government departments.

(Post-meeting notes: The motion was sent to the HKPF on 18 March 2016.)

V. Information Items

Chairman's Report on the Discussion Items of the Regular Meeting

18. The Chairman reported that the items for January and February 2016 had been set out in the report of the Chairman/Vice-chairman. The regular meeting for March 2016 would be held on 17 March. Councillors could send their enquiries or views to the Chairman or Vice-chairman so that they could relay them at the regular meeting in March.

VI. Application for DC Fund for Employing Dedicated Staff to Assist District Council to Discharge its Duties

(EDC Paper No. 9/16)

19. Councillors endorsed the funding applications in the paper.

VII. Financial Position of Eastern District Council Funds

(EDC Paper No. 10/16)

20. The Secretary introduced EDC Paper No. 10/16.

21. Councillors noted the financial position of the above funds.

VIII. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of District Facilities Management Committee

Action

(EDC Paper No. 11/16 & 12/16)

22. Councillors noted the above reports and endorsed the funding applications of items V, VII and IX in EDC Paper No. 12/16. The Eastern District Office was asked to follow up on the four projects mentioned at item XI.

IX. Report on the First Meeting of Culture, Leisure, Community Building and Services Committee

(EDC Paper No. 13/16)

23. Councillors noted the above report.

X. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of Traffic and Transport Committee

(EDC Paper No. 14/16 & 15/16)

24. Councillors noted the above reports.

XI. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

(EDC Paper No. 16/16 & 17/16)

25. Councillors noted the above reports.

XII. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of Planning, Works and Housing Committee

(EDC Paper No. 18/16 & 19/16)

26. Councillors noted the above report.

XIII. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of Vetting Committee

(EDC Paper No. 20/16 & 21/16)

27. Councillors noted the above reports and endorsed the acceptance of nominations for two co-opted members.

XIV. Report on the First Meeting of Task Group on Festival Celebrations

(EDC Paper No. 22/16)

28. Councillors noted the above report.

XV. Reports on the First and Second Meetings of Task Group on Publicity about the Work of Eastern District Council

(EDC Paper No. 23/16 & 24/16)

Action

29. Councillors noted the above reports.

XVI. Report on the First Meeting of Steering Group on the Signature Project of Eastern District

(EDC Paper No. 25/16)

30. Councillors noted the above report.

XVII. Report on the 213th Meeting of the Eastern District Management Committee

(EDC Paper No. 26/16)

31. Councillors noted the above report.

XVIII. Any Other Business

(i) Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development's Visit to Eastern District

32. The Chairman said that Mr Gregory SO Kam-leung, JP, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, would visit Eastern District on 10 March and meet all the Councillors of the EDC. The Secretariat had sent letters to inform Councillors who should in turn fill out the reply slips and send them back to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

(ii) Briefing Sessions by Secretary for Transport and Housing and Secretary for Development

33. The Chairman said that the Home Affairs Department (HAD) would like to invite Councillors and members to attend the above briefing sessions and he asked the meeting to participate actively.

(iii) Department Heads Attending EDC Meeting

34. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would inform Councillors and members after confirmation of the details of the meeting.

(iv) Revision of Claim Form for Operating Expenses Reimbursement/Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance (Rent/Staff Remuneration)

35. The Secretary said that the HAD had revised the above claim form and asked Councillors to use the revised form from 1 March.

(Post-meeting notes: The revised form was sent to Councillors on 1 March 2016.)

Action

XIX. Date of the next meeting

36. The meeting ended at 5:10 pm. The 3rd EDC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 26 April 2016 (Tuesday).

Eastern District Council Secretariat
April 2016