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## **Statement on the matter of Ivor Thom**

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) has concluded the investigation into the incident reported by Mr. Ivor Thom on September 7, 2024, at Burrowes School of Art. The Commission has taken diligent and relentless steps to address the matter, yet, unfortunately, all attempts to identify the accused have proven unsuccessful.

Following the news article on September 21, 2024, regarding the resignation of a Burrowes School of Art administrator over racist remarks, the ERC initiated a series of investigative procedures. Mr. Thom's complaint, detailing an encounter with an individual who allegedly made racially offensive remarks, was received on September 30, 2024.

In response, the ERC carried out multiple efforts, including canvassing the area, obtaining additional eyewitness statements, unsuccessful efforts in securing video footage, and seeking assistance from the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports and the Protected Areas Commission for information on the matter. Despite these exhaustive efforts, the Commission could not obtain information to identify the accused to move forward with the case.

On January 3, 2025, the ERC contacted Mr. Thom via telephone, to update him on the investigative efforts. During the call, he expressed that he considered the matter closed on his end and no further action was desired. Following this, the ERC formally wrote to Mr. Thom on January 8, 2025, seeking written confirmation of his position regarding the closure of the case. Unfortunately, as of today, Mr. Thom has not responded to confirm his position in writing.

In light of these developments, the Commission has decided to bring the investigation to a close. The ERC finds it unfortunate that, despite diligent efforts, the case has reached a dead end due to the inability to identify the individual involved. The Commission takes this opportunity to remind the public that for investigations to be carried out effectively, sufficient and verifiable information—particularly regarding the accused—is essential.

The ERC remains committed to its constitutional mandate of promoting ethnic harmony and good relations among all Guyanese. We encourage the public to report incidents of ethnic discrimination and to provide as much information as possible to assist in thorough and meaningful investigations.

***Ethnic Relations Commission***  
***14 February 2025***