

TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance Making Equality Matter.

January 20th, 2015

The Chair
Executive Committee
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor,

I am writing on behalf of Toronto Women's City Alliance (TWCA) with regard to the Committee's consideration of **EX2.1 Council Advisory Bodies for the 2014 to 2018 Term of City Council**. TWCA shares the goal of municipal policy that is equitable and serves the needs of all residents of Toronto, particularly those who are at a greater risk of marginalization due to discrimination. Initiatives to improve the design of policy in order to better serve these populations, improve co-ordination and service delivery, and an expansion of services are all welcome policy developments.

To this end, we urge the Executive Committee to consider the creation of a Council Gender Advisory Committee. Almost every form of municipal policy has differentiated effects on women and men, including (but not limited to) decisions on spending, urban design, employment initiatives, recreation services, transit, housing, and health. These differences are often more pronounced for newcomer women, members of the LGBTQ community and racialized women. It is crucial to consider the gendered effects of policy and incorporate appropriate considerations in policy design, especially given the proportion of the population of Toronto that identifies as female.

We look forward to your consideration of this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kara Santokie
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