

From: [Justine Barone](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Cc: [Emily Martyn](#)
Subject: My comments for 2015.EX7.2 on June 30, 2015 Executive Committee
Date: Monday, June 29, 2015 6:20:26 PM
Attachments: [2015.EX7.2 on June 30, 2015 Executive.doc](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 30, 2015 Executive Committee meeting on item 2015.EX7.2, TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

June 29, 2015

Re: 2015.EX7.2 on June 30, 2015 Executive Committee

Dear Executive Committee;

We would like to say thank you as we really support the recommendations in the Toronto Prosperity Interim Report, especially those around the start-up business fund, inclusionary zoning to facilitate the delivery of new affordable housing in private developments, affordable transit system for low income people, affordable and accessible food for families and children, and poverty sensitive budgeting. We see the need for these things in the work that we do every day with the people we interact with and feel that they will go a long way in helping individuals to be successful.

The recommendations about housing, particularly inclusionary zoning and rooming houses are of interest to us as many of the people we work with have precarious or no housing. While in the long term, being able to earmark money for more affordable housing units and allowances is necessary to reduce the extensive backlogs, rooming houses are a vitally important way to provide affordable housing right now to single people, students, newcomers to Canada and seniors. Because of this, it should be a priority of city staff and Council to examine the rooming house bylaw and expand legal rooming houses throughout the city of Toronto.

We also applaud the recommendations around the City of Toronto becoming a living wage employer. This is an important step in modelling the change we would like to see in Ontario

and Canada. However, we still feel that the City of Toronto can do more to help its residents who currently live in poverty. Toronto must become a leader in advocating to the provincial and federal governments to increase the minimum wage to a living wage, tied to inflation. This is the best time to take action on this step as this year there will be a federal election.

We must look to provinces like Alberta for support and encouragement; if they can accomplish a 15 dollar minimum wage by 2018, starting with a lower wage than that of Ontario, surely we can do it as well. We are hoping to see our loving city become a place where people can live, earn a good wage and contribute positively to society by giving back.

We hope that the Council will also set specific targets, timelines and funding amounts to the recommendations listed in their report, and that the Executive Committee will vote yes to a strong, comprehensive strategy that will truly lift all Torontonians out of poverty.

Sincerely,

The Community Advocate Team
advocacyoffice@tcrc.ca
416.363.4234 x274



June 29, 2015

Re: 2015.EX7.2 on June 30, 2015 Executive Committee

Dear Executive Committee;

We would like to say thank you as we really support the recommendations in the Toronto Prosperity Interim Report, especially those around the start-up business fund, inclusionary zoning to facilitate the delivery of new affordable housing in private developments, affordable transit system for low income people, affordable and accessible food for families and children, and poverty sensitive budgeting. We see the need for these things in the work that we do every day with the people we interact with and feel that they will go a long way in helping individuals to be successful.

The recommendations about housing, particularly inclusionary zoning and rooming houses are of interest to us as many of the people we work with have precarious or no housing. While in the long term, being able to earmark money for more affordable housing units and allowances is necessary to reduce the extensive backlogs, rooming houses are a vitally important way to provide affordable housing right now to single people, students, newcomers to Canada and seniors. Because of this, it should be a priority of city staff and Council to examine the rooming house bylaw and expand legal rooming houses throughout the city of Toronto.

We also applaud the recommendations around the City of Toronto becoming a living wage employer. This is an important step in modelling the change we would like to see in Ontario and Canada. However, we still feel that the City of Toronto can do more to help its residents who currently live in poverty. Toronto must become a leader in advocating to the provincial and federal governments to increase the minimum wage to a living wage, tied to inflation. This is the best time to take action on this step as this year there will be a federal election.

We must look to provinces like Alberta for support and encouragement; if they can accomplish a 15 dollar minimum wage by 2018, starting with a lower wage than that of Ontario, surely we can do it as well. We are hoping to see our loving city become a place where people can live, earn a good wage and contribute positively to society by giving back.

We hope that the Council will also set specific targets, timelines and funding amounts to the recommendations listed in their report, and that the Executive Committee will vote yes to a strong, comprehensive strategy that will truly lift all Torontonians out of poverty.

Sincerely,

The Community Advocate Team
advocacyoffice@tcrc.ca
416.363.4234 x274