

## **Supplementary Report: EY10.56: Request for Briefing at Etobicoke York Community Council on the Ward Boundary Review**

<b>Date:</b>	December 8, 2015
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	City Manager
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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The Etobicoke York Community Council has requested the third-party consultants to provide a briefing and update on Toronto's ward boundary review. The ward boundary review is in its final stages and the consultants will be submitting their final report to Executive Committee and City Council for consideration at its May 2016 meeting.

The ward boundary review process has been carefully developed to ensure objectivity and that it can withstand appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board and Divisional Court.

The City Manager recommends that City Council receive the report from Etobicoke York Community Council as a meeting between the consultants and one community council could be perceived as allowing for unfair influence on the process and potentially the outcome. The ward boundary review is a City-wide matter within the mandate of Executive Community and City Council.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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#### **The City Manager recommends that:**

1. City Council receive the report, EY10.56: *Request for Briefing at Etobicoke York Community Council on the Ward Boundary Review*, for information.

## Financial Impact

If City Council approves additional consultation at Community Council, additional costs would be incurred and the legal agreement between the City of Toronto and Canadian Urban Institute will need to be amended.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 10, 2015, EYCC requested the third party consultants undertaking the ward boundary review to brief their committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EY10.56>

At its June 2014 meeting, City Council approved the ward boundary review work plan.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX42.4>

At its March 2014 meeting, Bid Committee awarded the contract for the ward boundary review to Canadian Urban Institute.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.BD167.7>

At its June 2013 meeting, City Council authorized the City Manager to retain a third-party consultant to undertake a ward boundary review and approved the Terms of Reference for the project.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX32.2>

## ISSUE/BACKGROUND

In 2013, City Council initiated a ward boundary review to ensure effective representation across Toronto as there are significant discrepancies in ward populations where the variance exceeds the acceptable benchmark of plus or minus 25 percent.

The Canadian Urban Institute, Beate Bowron Etcetera Inc., and the Davidson Group Inc., have been retained to undertake this work. The Toronto Ward Boundary Review process includes five key components:

- Research (June 2014 to November 2014);
- Civic Engagement (Round One: June 2014 to February 2015 and Round Two: May 2015 to November 2015);
- Public and Stakeholder Consultation (Round One: June 2014 to February 2015 and Round Two: June 2015 November 2015);
- Generation of Ward Boundary Options (March 2015 to April 2015);
- Final Report (February 2016 to March 2016).

## COMMENTS

The ward boundary review undertaken by third-party consultants is in its final stages. The consultants recently completed the second round of public and stakeholder consultation and will be publishing their report on the results of the consultation on their web site at the end of January. The consultants will be submitting their final report, including recommended ward boundary changes, for consideration to Executive Committee and City Council at its May 2016 meeting.

The Supreme Court of Canada, Ontario courts and the Ontario Municipal Board have established that processes for municipal ward boundary reviews must focus on appropriate and relevant factors, be unbiased and include substantial public consultation. The process for Toronto's ward boundary review was designed to address these legal and procedural requirements.

A meeting between the consultants and one community council is outside of the ward boundary review process and the work plan approved by City Council at its June 2014 meeting. A meeting between the consultants and one community council could be perceived as allowing for unfair influence on the process and potentially the outcome.

The ward boundary review is a City-wide matter and within the mandate of Executive Committee and City Council. The City Manager recommends that item EY 10.56: Request for Briefing at Etobicoke York Community Council on the Ward Boundary Review be received for information.

## CONTACT

Lynda Taschereau, Executive Director  
Strategic and Corporate Policy  
City Manager's Office  
Phone: 416-392-6783  
Email: [ltascher@toronto.ca](mailto:ltascher@toronto.ca)

Fiona Murray, Director  
Strategic and Corporate Policy  
City Manager's Office  
Phone: 416-397-5214  
Email: [fmurray@toronto.ca](mailto:fmurray@toronto.ca)

Wendy Walberg, Practice Lead  
Legal Services  
Phone: 416-392-8078  
Email: [wwalberg@toronto.ca](mailto:wwalberg@toronto.ca)

## SIGNATURE

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Peter Wallace  
City Manager