TORONTO

REPORT FOR ACTION

Developing Terms of Reference for an LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Body

Date: October 10, 2017
To: Executive Committee
From: Acting Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards: All

SUMMARY

The Acting Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommend that the City engage stakeholders to develop terms of reference and an appointment process for a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirited (LGBTQ2S+) advisory body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Acting Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommend that:

1. Executive Committee request that the Acting Director, Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration undertake consultations with stakeholders, including a diverse range of leaders in the LGBTQ2S communities, to develop terms of reference and a recruitment and appointment process for an LGBTQ2S+ advisory body.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to this report.

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

DECISION HISTORY

In 1999 City Council adopted the final report and action plan of the Task Force on Community Access and Equity. Among the recommendations was that Council establish a city wide advisory committee on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee was established and served for two terms of City Council.

At its meeting on July 4, 2017 City Council made the following request:

> City Council direct the City Manager in consultation with the Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to establish a new Community Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirited Issues and report back to the October 24, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee with recommended terms of reference and a composition.
>
> http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.MM31.14

COMMENTS

Council Advisory Bodies

Chapter 27 of the *Toronto Municipal Code* contemplates the establishment of council advisory bodies. Council advisory bodies advise City Council on specific areas of interest and City Council term policy priorities. They report to Council through a committee and assist Council's decision making.

Council advisory bodies are composed of councillors and, at least fifty percent of the bodies' membership must be members of the public appointed by City Council. The terms of reference and appointment process are determined at the time the advisory body is created.

At the commencement of each City Council term, the City Manager recommends the establishment of a list of council advisory bodies. At any point during the term, City Council may direct the creation of additional advisory bodies. City Council may also dissolve an advisory body at any point during the Council term.

All council advisory bodies that are still in place at the end of a Council term are dissolved at that time. The current City Council term ends in November 2018. The last City Council meeting for the current term will be held in July 2018.

The establishment of an LGBTQ2S+ issues advisory body will require the development of terms of reference and a recruitment process. Once developed, the City Manager and City Council will need to approve the terms of reference and approve the establishment of the advisory body. City staff will subsequently begin the process of recruiting and recommending people for appointment to the advisory body. That process will likely take several months. Accordingly, it is unlikely that an advisory body established now will be operating in time to meaningfully contribute to the decision making of the current term of City Council.

In addition, the Acting Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recognize that it has been more than ten years since the City last had an LGBTQ2S advisory body and that the legislative and social context of the community has changed significantly in that time. In the circumstance, it would be advisable to consult with stakeholders, including members of the LGBTQ2S community, councillors and City divisions in the development of terms of reference and an recruitment process for an LGBTQ2S+ advisory body. The consultations will be critical in ensuring that the advisory body's terms of reference and its composition reflects the needs and perspectives of the diverse LGBTQ2S+ communities.

CONTACT

Omo Akintan
Acting Director, Equity, Diversity & Human Rights Division
416-392-8703
Omo.akintan@toronto.ca

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Chris Brillinger,
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration

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Omo Akintan
Acting Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights