

From: [Spencer Julien](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#)
Subject: My comments for 2018.EX36.45 on July 25, 2018 City Council
Date: July 25, 2018 11:49:07 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 23, 2018 City Council meeting on item 2018.EX36.45, Police Reference Check Program - Establishment of Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks Process and Proposed Fee

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:

The cost of Criminal Record Checks in the City of Toronto have been a barrier to access for some of the members of Scouts Canada. In most other municipalities in Southern Ontario, there is no cost for CRCs and the turnaround time is typically same-day, contrasted with the several month turnaround for a \$20 fee.

The contributions of our volunteers is essential to the mission of our organization and barriers such as those posed by the CRC processing fees have made it increasingly difficult for us to expand our operations in the City of Toronto, as we try to engage children and youth from all backgrounds for fun, safe Scouting adventures. These CRCs are essential to our volunteer screening policy, to ensure that all volunteers are fit to serve in our organization. Volunteers are already donating their time to us, these fees pose an additional roadblock in the volunteer recruitment process.

Specifiably in Toronto as we strive to reflect the diversity found across this wonderful city, these fees pose challenges for volunteers who come from low-income and marginalized communities. Most of these volunteers are parents, looking for a way to connect with their children's learning and development through our non-formal education system, and generously supporting the development of countless other young people alongside their own, into the leaders of today. If the City of Toronto could commit to making it easier for our community organization to operate

In my capacity with Scouts Canada, this country's largest youth-serving organization, I would request that the Council rejects item 2018.EX36.45 and reconsiders this item with the current capacity of our city's non-profit and community organizations in mind. Fees should be waived for all volunteers.

Best,

Spencer Julien

Council Youth Commissioner

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