

December 3, 2018

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council;

**Re: Report CC1.1 – Re-calibrating City Council’s Governance System for 26 Members**

The following comments have been compiled and agreed to by Residents’ Associations (RA’s) and Neighbourhood Associations (NA’s) located within the new Ward 10, Spadina Fort York.

We appreciate the thought that has gone into this report prepared by senior staff, and we are keenly aware that time is of the essence in getting a workable governance structure in place to implement the unwanted 25 ward model. We are also pleased that this will be a temporary structure, and we look forward to working with Council as the public consultation process unfolds.

We found the factual information in the report to be quite an eye opener, regarding the number of agencies that Councillors supported in the past and the number of citizen appointees that were processed. Clearly this workload has to be reduced, to allow Councillors to focus on their core responsibilities.

However, if citizens are to be appointed to serve on so many agencies, boards and tribunals, the selection process has to be transparent and not subject to cronyism. We suggest that a panel be created with the help of a recruitment agency to ensure that eligible candidates are fairly evaluated. Where an appointee serves in lieu of a Councillor for a particular Ward, we would like to see that person reflect the values of the elected official, and have the necessary ability and interest in the work which should be duly compensated.

With more help coming from the appointees and the NA’s and RA’s, we recommend that Council create a Neighbourhoods Secretariat, similar to the office which supports BIA’s, with a dedicated staff who can help residents navigate City Hall. This could also provide a place to resolve minor issues which are typically reported to the 311 help line, without burdening the Councillors and their staff with these matters.

Much of the work of Councillors and NA’s/RA’s concerns development applications. Some NA’s/RA’s already have skilled and knowledgeable Planning Committees who focus on reviewing plans and proposals and formulating a response. We would like to see more groups like these created and supported by a new section of the City Planning Department, which would assist with development-related areas such as the TLAB and LPAT appeals. These citizen teams could also advise on the Section 37 and 45 benefits that their community needs.

The Committee structure recommended by staff seems to make sense. We have a slight concern that the Toronto and East York Community Council contains more Wards than the others, and will have a larger workload and longer agendas to debate, but the geographic boundaries chosen are logical.

With respect to Councillors' office budgets, we agree that these must be increased to address the increased workload. Options 2 and 3 both achieve this goal in different ways. Option 2 may be more palatable, as there is no overall increase in the funding envelope.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Pieters

CityPlace RA

Robin Lobb

Toronto Entertainment District RA

Jacqueline McLaughlin

Bathurst Quay NA

Jennifer Poon

Fort York NA

Angelo Bertolas, Carolyn Johnson

York Quay NA

Sharon McMillan

St. Lawrence NA

Patricia Aquino, Valerie Eggertson

Garment District NA

Scott James, Martin Gravel

Wellington Place NA