

Chair's Report
Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
July 12, 2019; 9:30am
Committee Room 1

Chair's Report

- **Paramedic Staffing**
 - On June 20, 2019, Council authorized the addition of 28 frontline paramedics this year – subject to the confirmation of anticipated provincial funding – to Toronto Paramedic Services to help address workload tied to increased emergency-call demands.
 - Reasons for rising demand include an aging and growing population, an increasing need to transport patients to specialized facilities, and increases in Toronto's vulnerable and marginalized populations.
- **Addressing Loss of Rooms for Rent**
 - On June 20, 2019, City Council approved an Official Plan amendment to address the loss of rooms in rooming houses as a form of shared, affordable housing in Toronto. The loss is occurring as a result of redevelopment.
 - When rooming-house rooms are lost to development, tenants often need support services and financial assistance to find and maintain new affordable housing, as they are often unable to afford the rent for a self-contained unit.
- **Accessible Canada Act – Bill C-81**
 - The Accessible Canada Act received Royal Assent on June 21st, 2019.
 - This Act aims to enhance the full and equal participation of all persons, especially persons with disabilities, in society. This is to be achieved through the realization, within the purview of matters coming within the legislative authority of Parliament, of a Canada without barriers, particularly by the identification, removal and prevention of barriers.

- **Review of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire**
 - On June 24, 2019, the General Government and Licensing Committee passed several amendments to the Municipal Code governing vehicles-for-hire. The amendments will be considered by City Council on July 16, 2019.
 - Proposed Amendments to Chapter 546 include:
 - The establishment of an Accessibility Fund Program, available to wheelchair accessible drivers and owners not under contract with Wheel-Trans.
 - A requirement that all Private Transportation Company drivers, providing accessible service, must successfully complete an accessible training program.
 - An amendment to the Taxicab Bill of Rights stating that drivers cannot refuse service to individuals with disabilities, where service can be accommodated, and cannot refuse service to individuals accompanied by a service animal.

Flag Raisings and Proclamations

- **National Deafblind Awareness Month**
 - The City of Toronto designated June as National Deafblind Awareness Month to recognize and celebrate the contributions that individuals who are deafblind make in their communities with the support of intervenors who serve as a bridge to communicate with individuals who are deafblind.

Upcoming and Ongoing Consultations

- **"Decision Making in Your City" Public Consultation for Special Committee on Governance.**
 - In December 2018, City Council created a Special Committee on Governance. The Committee will consider the impacts on the City's governance structure and processes arising from the reduction in the size of Council and to make recommendations to City Council on any further changes to its governance structure. This consultation is closing soon. Please send your input to the City by July 15, 2019.
- **City and TTC Transit Review**
 - Public transit services in Toronto are integral to the city's and region's vitality. Those wishing to provide input on the proposed changes can also complete the online Transit Responsibilities Review Survey until August 31, 2019.