

December 21, 2018

Re: Optimizing Youth Service Delivery

To the Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

The City of Toronto currently has at least 10 different divisions or Agencies, Boards, and Commissions that deliver programming and services to youth, aged 13-29: Social Development, Finance & Administration; Parks, Forestry & Recreation; Shelter, Support & Housing Administration; Toronto Public Health; Toronto Employment & Social Services; Economic Development & Culture; Equity, Diversity & Human Rights; Toronto Police Service; Toronto Community Housing Corporation; and Toronto Public Library.

While efforts have been made over the years to better coordinate services, there still exist many silos and a lack of strategic vision in the allocation of resources for youth services and programming across the corporation. After a year with persistent high levels of gun violence, youth under- and un-employment, and housing instability, it is time to review all youth services in order to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable youth. Given the signalled changes to Provincial support for student and youth programs, it is particularly important that we act now to address any gaps, ensure our services are well coordinated, and truly meeting the growing needs of Toronto's youth.

Recommendation:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee direct the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services, to undertake a review of all City of Toronto youth services and programming, including a review of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, and report back to the Economic and Community Development Committee in Q2 of 2020 with recommendations on how best to optimize youth service delivery to meet the needs of youth most vulnerable to serious crime and violence.

Sincerely,

Shelley Carroll
Councillor, Ward 17 – Don Valley North