
2020 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Toronto Community Housing Corporation Funding for Office of Ombudsman

Issue/Background:

- City Council directed the City Manager, in consultation with the Board of Directors, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, to include as part of the 2020 Budget Process, a review and appropriate request for additional resources for the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Toronto Community Housing Corporation related issues, and to consider funding these additional resources in 2019 if a funding opportunity presents itself.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX2.5>
- There is no precedent for a portion of an Agency's budget to be dedicated to the office budget of an Accountability Officer.

Key Points:

- Under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, the mandate of the Ombudsman is to "investigate any decision or recommendation made, or any act done or not done, in administration of the City, its agencies, boards and commissions".
- Under the Act and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code, the Ombudsman, as with all City Accountability Officers, is required to carry out its mandate and duties in an independent manner.
- Requesting that the Toronto Community Housing Corporation dedicate resources to the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate TCHC related issues could result in the perception of influence and be inconsistent with the Ombudsman's duty of independence.

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