

Appointment of a Toronto Ombudsman

Date: June 4, 2021

To: City Council

From: Chair, Ombudsman Selection Panel

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable person.

SUMMARY

This report recommends the appointment of a candidate as the City's Ombudsman.

This report also seeks Council authority to appoint an interim Ombudsman to ensure continuity in the position prior to the effective start date of the next Ombudsman.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Selection Panel recommends that:

1. City Council appoint as Ombudsman the candidate identified in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report, effective August 23, 2021, subject to and following written acceptance by the candidate of the prescribed Accountability Officer employment agreement offered by the City, for a 7-year non-renewable term ending on August 23, 2028, with all the powers and duties imposed upon the Ombudsman by Chapter 3, *Accountability Offices*, of the *City of Toronto Municipal Code*.
2. City Council appoint the current Deputy Ombudsman as Interim Ombudsman effective July 23, 2021 and ending August 22, 2021, with all the powers and duties imposed upon the Ombudsman by *Chapter 3, Accountability Offices, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code*.

3. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary Bills to give effect to City Council's decision.

4. City Council authorize the public release of the Curriculum Vitae Summary in Confidential Attachment 1 to the report from the Chair, Ombudsman Selection Panel.

COMMENTS

At its July 2016 meeting, City Council appointed Susan E. Opler as Toronto's Ombudsman for a fixed, non-renewable seven-year term. On October 21, 2020 the Ombudsman announced her intention to retire from the position.

The Ombudsman function is a requirement under the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and reports directly to City Council.

A recruitment process was initiated in late 2020 to fill the position of Ombudsman. Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 3, Accountability Officers, requires the selection process for accountability officers be conducted by an external recruitment firm and that the appointment be recommended to City Council by a Selection Panel, appointed by the Mayor and chaired by the Mayor or their designate.

A selection panel was appointed that included Deputy Mayor Holyday (Chair), Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Matlow and Councillor Nunziata. The Selection Panel was assisted by LHH Knightsbridge, an independent executive search firm engaged to undertake the search and support the selection process. LHH Knightsbridge is a global leader in executive search and recruitment, and conducted a comprehensive search to fill this position.

The Selection Panel undertook a comprehensive interview process, and unanimously recommends to City Council the appointment of an Ombudsman as identified in Attachment 1. The appointment of the Ombudsman requires a 2/3 majority vote (18 Members) of City Council.

This report also recommends to City Council the appointment of an interim Ombudsman to ensure continuity in the position prior to the effective start date of the next Ombudsman.

This report is submitted by the Chair on behalf of the Members of the Ombudsman Selection Panel.

SIGNATURE

Stephen Holyday
Deputy Mayor

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1