

MEMORANDUM

To: City Councill

Date: April 6, 2022

From: Dino Lombardi, Chair Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB)

Subject: **Agenda Item PH32.2 – Response to City Council’s Direction Arising from the Toronto Local Appeal Body Chair’s 2020 Annual Report**

In response to the above-cited Report from the City Manager’s Office, I previously provided a Memorandum, dated March 25, 2022, to the Planning and Housing Committee that outlines my concerns as the Chair of the Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) with the conclusions reached in that Report.

I will not repeat those concerns but will simply reiterate that as the TLAB Chair, I am extremely disappointed that the City Manager’s Office did not contact me to understand the challenges that precipitated the Council directives. Despite approaches to do so, I was not consulted at all regarding this Report and was only provided a copy by Court Services after it was made public.

Concerning the recommendations put forward in the City Manager’s Report, although I have addressed my ongoing concerns in my March 25th Memorandum, I would like to focus specifically on and address the first proposed recommendation.

The Report, on page 2, recommends that City Council approve an increase in the TLAB Member composition from ten (10) to fourteen (14) ‘part-time’ Members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair.

As I noted above, I was not consulted at all on the Report, and I was surprised to see a recommendation to increase the Membership complement to fourteen. The TLAB is experiencing a high degree of turnover that reflects what I believe are structural problems in the mandate and operation of the Tribunal and increasing the Member complement by four is not the panacea that one might think.

I would suggest that it may be prudent for Council to reconsider this recommendation and consider deferring it at this time, to allow the TLAB to monitor its continuing operation in 2022 with the current full complement of 10 Members, after which a fulsome reassessment can be undertaken.

However, if City Council is intent on adopting this recommendation, I would submit that any increase of the Member complement to fourteen (14) would tangentially require a reconsideration of the TLAB Chair’s annual stipend and also that of the Vice-Chair. I note that the Chair’s current annual stipend was established in early 2017 when the TLAB commenced operations and was calculated based on a complement of seven (7) ‘part-time’ Members.

I would submit that to do otherwise would not be fair to the Chair and Vice-Chair who are responsible for maintaining the reputational integrity of the Tribunal.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Respectfully,

Dino Lombardi, RPP, MCIP, MLAI
Chair, Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB)

X 

Dino Lombardi
Chair, Toronto Local Appeal Body
Signed by: dlombar

c.c. TLAB Vice-Chair and Members
City Manager's Office
Russ Brownell, Acting Manager, Court Operations – Tribunals, Court Services