

Appointment of Public Members to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Date: November 30, 2023

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee will conduct interviews and recommend 11 public members, including one as Chair, to City Council for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend eleven candidates, including one as Chair, to City Council for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026.
2. City Council direct that Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 13, 2023 the Civic Appointments Committee selected 26 candidates for interviews for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CA9.2>

At its meeting on May 10, 11 and 12, 2023, City Council amended the Terms of Reference for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.MM6.28>.

At its meeting on March 29, 30 and 31, 2023, City Council adopted the Terms of Reference for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC5.6>.

At its meeting on July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2022, City Council adopted a series of recommendations to establish the role or function of a Housing Commissioner for the City of Toronto. This included direction to City staff to report to City Council with a proposed Terms of Reference for a new Council Advisory Committee to support the City's goals set out in the Toronto Housing Charter and HousingTO Plan for the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.7>.

At its meeting of December 17 and 18, 2019, City Council adopted Item PH11.5 "HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan" as the framework to address Toronto's housing and homelessness challenges by 2030. This Plan includes a number of actions and targets to address critical needs across the housing spectrum. This also included the adoption of a revised Housing Charter, committing the City to advance the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. The City Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.PH11.5>

COMMENTS

Composition of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

The Housing Rights Advisory Committee will be composed of 12 members:

- 1 Member of City Council
- 11 Public Members.

The public members will include:

- At least 4 members with a diversity of lived/living experience of housing precarity, discrimination, living in social or supportive housing and/or homelessness;
- 7 representatives of organizations working in such fields as (but not limited to) housing services, health (including mental health) services, substance and harm reduction services, legal services, community services (including newcomer, people with disabilities, youth and senior services) or organizations focused on research related to poverty reduction, housing and/or human rights;
- At least 2 between the ages of 18 and 33;
- At least 2 who self-identify as a person with a disability;
- At least 2 who have lived experience and/or expertise in social barriers impacting Black communities and reflect the diversity of Black communities;
- At least 2 who self-identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis;
- At least 4 who self-identify as women;
- At least 2 who self-identify as being from the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

There are eleven positions, including the Chair, under consideration

This being the inaugural Housing Rights Advisory Committee and there are eleven public positions, including the role of Chair, are under consideration.

Recommended qualifications

To meet the Committee's mandate, staff recommend that, in addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy and the composition requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, membership should be comprised of individuals and organizational representatives who collectively demonstrate a range of lived / living experience, skills and qualifications, including:

- A strong interest in progressive advancement of the right to adequate housing and the rights of people experiencing housing precarity, discrimination and/or homelessness;
- Expertise in a human rights-based approach to housing and understanding of international laws and frameworks establishing the right to adequate housing;
- Knowledge and awareness of the function of different levels of government and intergovernmental roles and responsibilities related to housing;
- Knowledge of the academic research related to a human rights-based approach to housing and housing policy and/or learnings from other jurisdictions;
- Experience in communication, decision-making, community advocacy;
- Experience or skills in navigating sensitive discussions in a public environment, facilitating respectful dialogue, and fostering a welcoming and safe space for diverse experiences to be shared.

Term of Office

Public members of Council Advisory Bodies are appointed for a term coincident with the term of City Council. The advisory committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current City Council term, ending on November 14, 2026, whichever comes first.

Coordination with the Housing Secretariat and City Staff

The Public Appointments Secretariat has and continues to work closely with Housing Secretariat staff to ensure the appointment process meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee. Other City divisions consulted and involved include: Strategic Public and Employee Communications, the Indigenous Affairs Office, and People and Equity.

Public release of names of recommended candidates

The names and biographies of the recommended candidates will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendation to City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – List of Interview Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Confidential Attachment 2 – Interview Schedule for December 11, 2023