

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM11.34	ACTION			Ward: All
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Opening City Hall - by Mayor Olivia Chow, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Mayor Olivia Chow, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth, and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, to convene a forum of renters, housing providers, and advocates to provide input into the establishment of a Renters' Action Committee including recommendations for its composition, mandate and objective in the fourth quarter of 2023, and report back to City Council in the first quarter of 2024 with a recommended terms of reference and direction for the City Clerk to canvass Members for their interest.

2. City Council establish the City-School Boards Advisory Committee for the 2022 to 2026 term and:

a. adopt the associated Terms of Reference in Attachment 1 and direct that these meetings will take place under the Simplified Rules for Advisory Bodies.

b. City Council direct the City Clerk to canvass Members for their interest.

3. City Council waive the requirement for the City Clerk to canvass Members for their interest before appointing any members to fill a position on the Service Excellence Committee, and appoint the following members to the Service Excellence Committee:

a. Gord Perks;

b. Lily Cheng; and

c. Jaye Robinson

Having regard that Mayor Olivia Chow has already appointed Councillor Stephen Holyday as Chair and Councillor Paul Ainslie as Vice-Chair.

Summary

As Mayor, I have made a personal commitment to bring a new spirit of collaboration to City Hall and this is a commitment shared by members of Council. This is the people's house and they deserve a voice in the decisions that shape our City.

In the spirit of opening City Hall, increasing democratic access and accountability, and strengthening public services, this motion proposes to establish three committees on key priorities for our city - fairness for renters and strengthening public services.

This motion recommends the City begin a process to establish a Renters Action Committee - and to do so by working directly with renters' and tenant advocates to shape a work plan that speaks to the urgent need renters are voicing for more protection and accountability. In addition, it recommends City Council re-establish the City-School Boards Advisory Committee to strengthen collaboration with our partners at Toronto's public school boards, as well as appointments to the newly-formed Service Excellence Committee, which will use the City's vast 311 data to analyze how we can continue to improve public service delivery across Toronto.

The reason for urgency is that in the Mayor's open letter to Members of Council on August 10, 2023 the Mayor committed to opening City Hall, including through establishing a Service Excellence Committee and this motion allows members to be appointed, and for urgent work to begin to open City Hall on a number of issues.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM11.34

City-School Boards Advisory Committee Terms of Reference for the 2022 - 2026 Term
(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-239873.pdf>)