

Appointment of Public Members to the George Bell Arena Board

Date: June 16, 2025

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: City Clerk

Wards: Ward 5

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the George Bell Arena Board.

SUMMARY

City Council has authorized the City Clerk to shortlist, interview and recommend candidates to Etobicoke York Community Council for appointment to the George Bell Arena Board. This report recommends the appointment of four public members to the George Bell Arena Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council appoint the following four candidates to the George Bell Arena Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending July 3, 2029, and until successors are appointed:

- Syeda Esashi Ali
- Mariya Belmessova
- Wendell Noel
- Charlene Patfield

2. Etobicoke York Community Council direct that Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on May 13, 2024, Etobicoke York Community Council appointed two members to the George Bell Arena Board for a term of office ending May 13, 2028, and until successors are appointed.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EY13.16>

At its meeting held on June 19, 2023, Etobicoke York Community Council appointed two members to the George Bell Arena Board for a term of office ending June 19, 2027 and until successors are appointed.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EY6.10>

At its meeting held on February 27, 2023, Etobicoke York Community Council appointed three members to the George Bell Arena Board for a term of office ending June 23, 2025 and two members for a term of office ending February 28, 2027, and until successors are appointed.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EY3.13>

At its meeting held on April 19, 2022, Etobicoke York Community Council appointed one member to the George Bell Arena Board for a term of office ending June 23, 2025 and until a successor is appointed.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EY31.20>

COMMENTS

Composition of the George Bell Arena Board

The board consists of 12 members and is composed of:

- The Councillor for Ward 5
- 10 public members
- 1 non-voting staff member from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

There are currently four positions under consideration

These positions are a result of the resignation of Michael Casey effective January 10, 2025 and the terms of Maria Gervasi, Wendell Noel, and Charlene Patfield ending on June 23, 2025. Members continue to serve until successors are appointed.

Term of office

The term of office for public appointees to the George Bell Arena Board is four years. Members appointed through this current process will serve a term of office ending July 3, 2029, and until successors are appointed.

The City Clerk recruits and recommends candidates for Arena Boards to Community Council

City Council has authorized the City Clerk to screen, interview and recommend candidates for the George Bell Arena Board to the Etobicoke York Community Council.

City Clerk's staff conducted outreach to attract diverse, qualified individuals with relevant skills and qualifications including marketing, finance, and law. To attract qualified candidates, City Clerk's staff promoted the opportunity to various professional and community organizations. Consideration was also given to supporting diverse representation on the George Bell Arena Board.

Staff from the City Clerk's Office and Parks and Recreation shortlisted 10 candidates based on the City Council approved qualifications and eligibility criteria. One candidate withdrew and nine candidates were interviewed. Parks and Recreation staff were asked to participate on the panel given their familiarity with the George Bell Arena and community recreation programs and services in Toronto. The panel consisted of:

- Operation Support Officer, Community Recreation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Acting People Services Consultant, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office

The panel selected the recommended candidates by weighing their applications and interview performance, and the different perspectives and qualifications each would bring to the board.

Staff are recommending four highly qualified candidates for appointment

City Clerk's Office and Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff are recommending four highly qualified candidates for appointment to the George Bell Arena Board (see Attachment 1). These candidates cover the range of City Council approved qualifications for the George Bell Arena Board with the relevant knowledge and experience.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Recommended Candidates and Biographies for the George Bell Arena Board

Confidential Attachment 1 - List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the George Bell Arena Board