

Selection of Candidates for the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal

Date: October 19, 2026

To: Nominating Panel – Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal

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 Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal.

SUMMARY

The Nominating Panel – Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal must select candidates to interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal. Following the interviews, the Nominating Panel will recommend five candidates to City Council for appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Nominating Panel - Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal select 10 candidates listed in Confidential Attachment 1a for interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal.
2. The Nominating Panel - Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal direct that Confidential Attachments 1a and 1b remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 23 and 24, 2025, City Council appointed one public member to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.DM29.1>

At its meeting on May 10, 2023, City Council appointed five public members, including a chair, to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC6.2>.

COMMENTS

Composition of the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal

The Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal is comprised of five public members including one member appointed as Chair by City Council. Each hearing is conducted by a tribunal panel of three members.

There are five positions, including the role of chair under consideration

There are currently five positions under consideration, including the role of chair. These positions are a result of the following members whose terms are ending on November 14, 2026, and until successors are appointed:

- Ron Balinsky
- Matthew Brown
- Sophia Davis
- Tracey Hamilton
- Nigel Waterman

Term of office

The term of appointment of members of the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal is four years coincident with the term of Council. The public members will be appointed for a term of office ending November 14, 2030, and until a successor is appointed.

Tribunal members must meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements in the Public Appointments Policy, members must demonstrate:

- Experience in adjudication and mediation;
- Ability to write clear and concise decisions;
- Excellent listening skills and ability to analyze complex information received;
- Sound judgement, tact, fairness, and decorum;
- Demonstrated high ethical standards and integrity;
- Ability to adjudicate without bias and free from the influence of advocacy groups;
- Ability to work under pressure to ensure timely hearing decisions;
- Respect for access to justice, diversity, and accommodation;

- Knowledge of the proper care and handling of domestic animals, particularly related to the care, training, behaviour, and handling of dogs would be an asset; and,
- Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR) certificate or Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training is an asset.

Chair qualifications

In addition to the above qualifications for public members, the Chair of the tribunal should bring the following skills, experience, and expertise:

- Demonstrated leadership and administrative skills;
- Highly developed chairing and facilitation skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with others;
- Knowledge of access to information and privacy legislation; and,
- The ability to effectively represent the Tribunal and communicate with City Council, City committees, the media, and the general public.

Tribunal members must meet additional eligibility requirements

In addition to the eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal's public members must satisfy the following additional eligibility requirements:

- Cannot be former Members of Council who served in the immediately preceding term of City Council;
- Cannot act as an agent for applicants before the Tribunal or other local boards of the City, and would be required to resign from the Tribunal before doing so;
- Cannot act as an agent for applicants or individuals appearing in Provincial Offences Court or in matters related to the Dog Owners' Liability Act where these matters are related to the City

Tribunal members receive remuneration

- Public members, including the chair, receive full-day per diem of \$460 and half-day per diem (3.5 hours or less) of \$275 for hearings, business meetings and training sessions.
- Public members receive an annual stipend of \$1,500, pro-rated on an annual basis from the time of appointment. The Chair receives an annual stipend of \$2,500, pro-rated on an annual basis from the time of appointment.

We have consulted with Court Services staff

Public Appointments Secretariat staff consulted with Court Services staff to discuss Tribunal qualifications and the appointment process. In addition to the Council approved qualifications, it was suggested candidates with strong communication and presentation skills, facilitation and mediation skills, the ability to demonstrate emotional intelligence in challenging situations, and the ability to work under pressure would be an asset. Staff also emphasized that members should be able to dedicate time to prepare for tribunal cases and review information in advance.

Short-listed candidates will write an assignment and be interviewed

Candidates selected for an interview will receive a written test related to the roles and responsibilities of a Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal member. The Nominating Panel will be provided with the test results during the interviews.

Outreach conducted for these vacancies

The opportunity to join the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal was shared externally through the Public Appointments website, LinkedIn, the Public Appointments e-subscribers list, the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario. The opportunity was also shared with internal City partners including the Indigenous Affairs Office, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, and People and Equity, to promote broadly through their networks.

Next steps - Interviews

Once the Nominating Panel - Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal selects candidates for interview, the City Clerk's Office will contact the candidates to schedule them for 20-minute interviews. Ten interviews at 20 minutes each will take approximately three and a half hours to complete, plus time for deliberation.

CONTACT

Robyn Summers, Manager, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office, 416-338-1911, Robyn.Summers@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1a – List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal

Confidential Attachment 1b - List of Ineligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal