



December 2, 2016

Chair and Members
Strategic Policy and Priorities Committee

Re: Council Reconfiguration

Colleagues,

After much reflection and observation, I have come to the conclusion that the modus operandi of Municipal Council is not sustainable. I have never been an advocate of a “full time council” as I have valued the perspectives brought to council by the diversity of experience of members engaged in other employment endeavours in the community. However, meetings of committee and council regularly run late into the evening and additional meetings are added during daytime hours. Members are sitting on multiple committees, and task forces. Additionally, members are representing London with FCM, AMO and OGRA. Furthermore, the level of engagement required to meet the demands of a growing city and the desire by constituents for communication through many channels has increased dramatically.

It should also be noted that other municipalities have higher ratios of councillors to constituents. This includes for example Edmonton (1:66600) or Hamilton (1:34666). London’s ratio is currently (1:27200).

Be it resolved that Civic Administration be asked to report back to SPPC within 60 days with a plan that would identify what steps would need to be taken for Municipal Council for the following actions:

- Council reconfigured into a smaller council of perhaps 10 and a mayor.
- Ward boundaries redrawn to coincide with the size of council.
- Committee meetings held during the day with the exception of Public Participation meetings.
- Remuneration increased substantially to reflect that the role of councillor would be the primary employment focus of members.
- Process of public engagement for the contemplation of changes to be identified.
- The changes enacted in time for the 2018 municipal election.

Upon the receipt of said report, Committee and Council could then determine if they would like to pursue these changes and give further direction.

Respectfully

Paul Hubert, M.A.

Councillor Ward 8 & Deputy Mayor