

To: Mayor Matt Brown, Deputy Mayor Paul Hubert, City Council Members,  
From: Samuel E. Trosow  
Re: Ward Boundary Review  
Date: March 1, 2017

This submission is to follow up on my presentation at the Corporate Services Committee meeting of February 27, 2017. At that meeting I expressed several concerns about the proposed boundary changes that were submitted to the committee for approval, I requested that further consideration be given to the matter, and I asked that the revised options be better circulated to the public for comments prior to them coming back to you for approval.

In particular, I asked if the data could be updated by

- (1) using the 2016 census data that is now available; and
- (2) giving further consideration to the inclusion of post-secondary students who reside off campus.

I also expressed my view that the proposed transfers into Ward 6 resulting in a ward population of 14.5% over the ward population average was excessive, and that this number would be even higher if the full extent of the off-campus student population was considered. I also questioned the assumption that future growth rates will continue in the same wards given the focus in the London Plan on intensification over new developments on the periphery.

While I have not had the chance to engage with the 2016 census data in detail, it is evident from an initial review that there was significant growth from 2011 through 2016. (There is an interactive map which provides the data for each census tract which I accessed from the news account posted at <http://globalnews.ca/news/3235071/london-cma-population-rises-to-494000-in-2016-lags-behind-national-growth/>)

The largest single increase was in the census area 120.03 which spans the northern boundary and which cuts across Wards 7, 5 and 3. This area will significantly increase the base population numbers for Ward 5 as well as Ward 7. Ward 5 also saw an increase in areas 48, 49.01, 49.02 and 50.01. There was also a significant increase in Ward 7 in area 44.05. The areas in Ward 8 saw slight decreases and Ward 6 was a mix of slight decreases and increases. I think the bigger issue in Ward 6 will be capturing a significant off-campus student population that had not been captured in the census (as indicated in the previous staff report)

Given the necessary transfer of the multi-unit area east of Wonderland from Ward 8 back to Ward 13 it will be necessary to transfer parts of Ward 7 into Ward 8. The triangle at Sarnia and Wonderland north of the tracks has already been suggested, but the difference between Wards 7 and 8 may now be great enough that consideration should be given to moving areas even north of Sarnia Road into Ward 8 (perhaps up to Lawson, or even closer to Gainsborough depending on how large the gap between 7 and 8 has become.)

Another way to reduce the population of Ward 7 would be to consider moving area 44.02 (north of Gainsborough/East of Wonderland) into Ward 6 (as suggested by Mr. Levin at the committee).

Depending on how much of the large population increase in 120.03 is east of Richmond, it may be necessary to reduce the size of Ward 5 (and I think this would more logically involve a move into Ward 6 rather than Ward 3).

At the committee I mentioned the very concentrated area south of Windemere Rd just West of Adelaide and north of the river. While running the Ward 5/Ward 6 border along Windemere Rd from Richmond to Adelaide would lose the natural boundary of the river, it would square off Ward 6 and Windemere Rd would still be a reasonable boundary. If this transfer is insufficient to make up the gap between Wards 5 and 6, consideration could then be given to moving the townhouses at the northwest corner of Windemere and Richmond into Ward 6 and then proceeding on the east side of Richmond going north as needed. This would avoid the need to draw boundaries through an internal residential neighbourhood.

At the committee, the issue of moving the portion of Ward 7 that is contained in the Near Campus Neighborhood Area into Ward 6 was raised. I submitted that this is a logical area as its borders have already been carefully reviewed and vetted. While I still think this is a better option than moving the entire Old Masonville area (over to Medway Creek and up to Fanshawe Park) into Ward 6, I understand the concern that was raised and how this would involve the need to draw boundaries within an internal residential area. Perhaps the Western/Richmond/Windemere triangle could also be considered separately.

In any event, I believe that the overage in Ward 7 can be primarily addressed with respect to making up the gap with Ward 8 and any overage in Ward 5 be considered with respect to moving some areas into Ward 6 without cutting too far into the interior of Ward 5.

Certainly this entire picture should become clearer when the chart showing the current Ward populations is revised based on the 2016 census (and whatever other adjustments can be made with respect to off-campus housing ).

I am sure there are some other good suggestions for making marginal adjustments to the ward boundaries which haven't been mentioned, so I am hoping the public is given an adequate chance to comment prior to this coming back to the committee in April. I would like to suggest that once the city has prepared a revised population table, this data be released to the public as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the Corporate Services Committee, and I hope this submission is helpful.

Submitted by Samuel Trosow on March 1, 2017