

Thank you for your response.

We would be happy to request delegation status for the Corporate Services Committee for the Nov. 2nd meeting.

Thanks.

Jacqueline Madden

**From:** Jacqueline Madden

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 11:33 AM

**To:** SPPC <[sppc@london.ca](mailto:sppc@london.ca)>; Saunders, Cathy <[csaunder@london.ca](mailto:csaunder@london.ca)>

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for delegation status

To the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee Chair, Members, and Council,

This email is to request delegation status for Jacqueline Madden and Michael Dawthorne at the November 17th, 2020 Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee meeting to inform the committee of the difficulty we have had as volunteers and community members when trying to navigate our local government.

My name is Jacqueline Madden and I have been a volunteer on the Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) for the past 4+ years while Michael Dawthorne has been a member of ACCAC as well as other city committees for more than 10 years. As you know, ACCAC is a committee that is mandated by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The committee is made up of volunteers, the majority of whom must have disabilities or be the parent/guardian of a person with a disability. Both Michael and myself joined this committee as we have lived experience with accessibility issues being parents of adult children with significant physical and mental health conditions. We came to this committee with the shared goal of improving life in the City of London for people with disabilities who represent 15% of our population.

Through the years, we feel we have had a positive impact on our community. We have worked with several mayors, many council members and have formed positive working relationships with many staff members from various departments in the City of London.

However, over the course of the current council, community advisory committees have been under review. ACCAC has been grouped into the general "advisory committee review" even though ACCAC is provincially mandated and is not an optional advisory committee for the City of London. The composition of our committee and our mandate are clearly identified in the AODA and thus, our existence should not be in question but we certainly appreciate any effort to make advisory committees more functional within the city structure. Unfortunately, our effectiveness has been seriously undermined as the effectiveness of advisory committees has been publicly questioned by some current council members. To add to the uncertainty, Covid appeared in March of 2020 and sent us into even further disarray.

At this point, ACCAC has missed 8 consecutive meetings without a word from the City about when we can meet. The City has continued with their regular business as well as making decisions to cope with Covid but has not once considered asking for the advice of ACCAC. Issues of sidewalk cafes, reopening of business, mask-wearing and transportation have all been decided without taking into consideration the feedback that should have been offered by ACCAC. We tried to use the mechanisms given to us to ask to give input but they went unacknowledged and ignored. We undertook the regrettable action of resigning, and then

after waiting for 6 weeks for the City to react, we went to the media with our complaints because we felt we had no other way to address them.

We would like the opportunity to share our experience with SPPC in the hopes that something can be learned from our experience and improvements can be made in the communication and procedures that affect London's ACCAC.

Please add this letter to the public agenda and we also consent to it being a part of the public record.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Madden and Michael Dawthorne