

From: Patricia Cullimore
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:12 AM
To: csc <csc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appointment of Councillor for Ward 13

Dear Members of the Corporate Services Committee,

Following from an article in this morning's Free Press, as a constituent of Ward 13 I would encourage City Council to support the residents by providing ward representation as expeditiously as possible. Officially, we have been without representation since the beginning of August when Arielle Kayabaga announced her candidacy for the past federal election and took leave. According to City of London by-laws, should Council choose to appoint an individual, the appointment must be made within 60 days of the declaration of vacancy, which was October 5, 2021, meaning Ward 13 would have representation by December 3, 2021 at the latest. According to City Clerk Cathy Saunders, a by-election would take several months to arrange, advertise and run. As we are approaching the Christmas holiday season, that likely means we wouldn't see representation for Ward 13 until February of 2022.

Regarding Ward 11 Councillor Stephen Turner's comment that: "...elections cost money and time. That's the cost of democracy.", as a tax payer, I have to ask if it is the best use of the City's, and candidates', financial resources to hold a by-election considering a municipal election will be held in less than a year's time?

And, regarding Ward 5 Councillor and Chair of the Corporate Services Committee Maureen Cassidy's concern regarding an appointed incumbent having an "unfair" advantage, I would ask: are incumbents re-elected solely because they are incumbents or could it be because constituents have had a chance to assess their incumbent's performance in office and judge it to be effective? Is it fair to deny ward constituents the right to re-elect an effective incumbent solely because they were appointed? Is less than a year in office a significant "advantage"?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Patricia Cullimore
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