

To London City Council members,

The departure of Mr. Squires and Ms. Kayaba has left two empty seats on city council. As these councilors had but a year to go on their mandate, two by-elections may not be appropriate as a means of replacing them. However, informally hosting a popularity contest, by counting the letters sent for one potential appointee over another, apparently without a nomination process, is not an appropriate “solution” to the problem of how to fill these positions. If picking the runner-up in the last election is to be the standard, that should at least be the result of a city council debate (and apply across the board). (I myself think this is a simplistic solution.) Other criteria could be a history of having sat on council in the past, or a history of considerable contribution to the community (and I can think of several candidates who meet at least one of these standards).

The world is rather a different place than it was when the last city council was elected, and new standards should somehow reflect that. Just as an example, an egregious change in London’s situation is the abandonment of the city by the Greyhound bus service (the laughable four-hour trip to Toronto on the “GO” [“Amble?”] train notwithstanding). Thank you for considering my opinion.

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