

From: Tommy Caldwell
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Ward 13 Vacancy

Hi, Audrey. You have my permission to pass this document on to be used however is reasonable for the next council meeting

I wanted to address my concern for an appointment in place of a by-election for the vacant Ward 13. While I understand the concerns of both brevity and finances attached to a by-election, it has been 1000 days since the current 'runner-up' was up for the Ward 13 seat. Considering how much has changed in our city (and the world) since then, I believe the ward 13 seat needs an opportunity to be filled by other candidates. This process does not need to be done via a traditional by-election. At the very least the council should be open to submissions of other interested parties who would like to make their case for an appointment.

I, for example, am a small business owner in Ward 13. I have felt the devastating effects of the pandemic on my business, my staff, and my patrons' mental and physical health. During the initial lockdowns, I started a foundation for Ontario Fitness and Recreation businesses to lobby on their behalf. Today, the foundation supports 290 small businesses and entrepreneurs in this space. I know the city council is sympathetic to the many Londoners who have been deeply affected by the events of the last 19 months. Still, those who are most affected are not adequately represented in the diversity of the current council. The concentration of small businesses that COVID-19 has most affected is exceptionally high in Ward 13. I believe a person who has been directly affected by ongoing shutdowns and mandates needs to fill that seat.

So if a by-election is not reasonable, an appointment should be open to a variety of candidates rather than appointing a runner-up from almost three years ago.

I will go on record here and state that I would like to be considered for the Ward 13 seat. I am a young entrepreneur who has been in business since 2008 and is currently located in Ward 13. I am active in the community, I am interested in serving the people of London, Ontario, and I will bring many new but reasonable and balanced perspectives to the city council.

Please consider allowing other passionate Londoners to throw their hats in the ring for this position or move forward with a fair by-election.

Thank you, Tommy Caldwell