



The Urban League of London
P.O. Box 574, Station B,
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November 25, 2021

Mayor E. Holder and members of Council:

The Urban League of London is an umbrella organization whose members include over 40 neighbourhood associations and community groups as well as individuals working to improve and connect our city. Supporting and encouraging community engagement in municipal decisions is one of the core activities of the League and the reason we have been following and participating in the review and recommendations for restructuring the City's Advisory Committees.

We acknowledge the staff report reflects an extensive review undertaken. As well, many concerns and suggestions highlighted by City Council, current Advisory Committees, community groups, and individuals, are included in the revised Terms of Reference. Respectfully we believe there are significant gaps in the report and motions before SPPC.

Firstly, the scope of housing related matters previously within London Housing AC's mandate do not appear within the proposed structure. Staff noted feedback that "there needs to be an advisory committee focused on housing; a larger committee needs to be created." However, housing isn't in any of the Terms of Reference and there is no explanation within the report. Given the urgency on a number of different housing matters in London, this feels like a big gap.

Secondly, we are concerned that to "pause populating" three ACs because of potential overlap with newly approved, but not yet constituted, community task forces/committees limits citizen input on several matters involving review and input of current projects. Again, this feels like a big gap for two important priorities in London: transportation and the environment.

Finally, is there a plan to extend *all* of the current AC terms beyond the previous Dec 31/21 period? Finalizing the appointment process and other details of the new AC structure along with recruitment will take some time. Without an extension there will be a lengthy gap in this important format for community engagement.

Thank you for considering.

Regards,

Skylar Franke
President - Urban League of London *on behalf of the Urban League of London Board*