

From: phil myers

Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 7:10 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Cc: Pelosa, Elizabeth <epelosa@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] London City Council - feedback for the public agenda RE Police Services Board appointment

For London City Council Meeting - Tuesday April 4, 2023

Dear London City Council,

I am writing to request that you do not appoint Ryan Gauss to the vacant Police Services Board position.

In this day and age, when society finally is starting to recognize the trauma-inducing racism experienced by racialized peoples at the hands of police, London must think long and hard before choosing another white man over an Indigenous man for this role.

Mr. Gauss may be qualified for the role, but so are others on the nomination list, including Joseph Wabegijig. Perhaps Mr. Wabegijig is even more qualified, because it would be fair to expect that as an Indigenous man, he has had direct interaction with police or close association with those who would have had detrimental interactions with the police. Such experiences lead to more fulsome insight into the challenges faced by Police Services than perhaps as a white man, Mr. Gauss might not.

If that argument is not convincing, then perhaps you would consider the public perception that the nomination of Mr. Gauss is the ultimate expression of nepotism and close-mindedness to the world around. Given that the the nominee is someone who has contributed to the campaigns of current Councilors, and in the vote, the Mayor did not recuse himself to vote for his campaign manager, the optics reek of nepotism. Because of those optics, this decision will be news from coast to coast to coast.

London's City Council could demonstrate forward thinking and elect an Indigenous man with significant qualifications instead of staying stuck in the past, where white men were seen to have the right to all positions of power.

Please reconsider - find a better solution than the status quo.

Thank you,

Dr. Phillipa Myers