



Response to Vehicle for Hire Annual Report - Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton and Accessibility Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the March 7, 2022, Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton and Accessibility Advisory Committee report EXT01102, be received for Information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

Executive Summary

- The Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee provides City Council with advice on affairs relevant to municipal jurisdiction for women's gender-based issue resolutions and opportunities - related to city policies, priorities and decisions.
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to the City Council about facilities and other infrastructure, programs, services, activities and policies. This aims to improve the City's livability, inclusiveness and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- Concerns arising from the City of Edmonton's Vehicle for Hire Commission have been raised specifically by the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee with endorsements by the Anti-racism Advisory Committee and City of Edmonton Youth Council.

REPORT

What is the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE)?

WAVE is composed of 15 community volunteers from diverse backgrounds and experiences to provide City Council with advice on affairs relevant to municipal jurisdiction. In February 2014, the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee Bylaw was approved by City Council and the WAVE Committee was formally established in spring 2014.

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The Committee's Mandate is to:

- make recommendations to Council about women's gender based issues and opportunities in relation to Council policies, priorities, and decisions;
- promote leadership to empower Edmonton women to fully participate in civic life; and
- research and provide information on resources about women's gender-based issues and opportunities in Edmonton.

What is the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)?

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) provides advice and recommendations to Council about facilities and other infrastructure, programs, services, activities and policies. This aims to improve the City's livability, inclusiveness and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The Committee may:

- Identify and engage stakeholder groups and seek their input into the Committee's work.
- Conduct research and prepare reports on effective mitigation or modification strategies (for matters within the Committee's mandate) that would help individuals with disabilities to more fully participate in the community.
- Examine City information regarding current City facilities and infrastructure, programs, public services, activities and policies, to identify where they could create issues or barriers for individuals with disabilities. At the City Manager's request and where confidentiality issues permit, proposals can be examined as well.

Feedback and Recommendations

The Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton has outlined feedback and recommendations in an open letter to city council. See attachment #1 for further in-depth explanations, highlights include;

- Historical lack of fulsome engagement by the Vehicle for Hire area.
- Historical lack of follow-through on committee recommendations.
- Concerns around the sense of urgency to address safety and well-being concerns of passengers.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee has also shared their recommendations with an open letter to City Council as well. See attachment #2 for further in-depth explanations and highlights which include;

- The length of time it is taking the City to implement important equitable and safety service improvements.
- Understandable lack of driver willingness to operate an accessible vehicle because of the greater costs for drivers to purchase, operate, and maintain an accessible vehicle as well as the longer distance to travel to a call and the time it takes to assist riders.
- Expedite mandatory disability awareness training for all drivers and dispatchers, not just those with accessible licenses (Passenger Assistance, Safety, Sensitivity) .

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Letter of Recommendations
2. Accessibility Advisory Committee Letter of Recommendations

OTHERS REVIEWING THIS REPORT

- Mike Chow, Director - Social Identity and Social Inclusion, Community Services
- Lyla Peter, Director - Development Approvals and Inspections, Urban Planning and Economy