



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.2.1
Executive Standing Committee
October 28, 2019

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Julia Bremner, Chair, Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM

DATE: October 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Inclusive Building Closure Procedures

ORIGIN

September 16, 2019 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM, Item No. 9.1.3.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order 2017-005-GOV, respecting the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 6 (b):

Duties of the Committee

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to persons with disabilities as follows:

(b) identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility recommends that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to review closure procedures for all municipal public buildings with the view of making closure notification, including emergency procedures, accessible to everyone.

BACKGROUND

At the September 16, 2019 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM, Committee member Elizabeth Doull recounted her experience of being locked in a university library building after closing hours. Ms. Doull lost track of time. Being deaf, she would not have been able to hear any verbal announcement regarding imminent closure of the library and no visual alerts were issued nor a walk through conducted.

DISCUSSION

At its September 16, 2019 meeting, the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM discussed inclusivity of buildings and whether it was a general practice for buildings to have lock up and emergency

procedures in place that could alert all occupants. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring that inclusive building procedures were incorporated in all buildings, while also acknowledging the complexity of such an undertaking. It was noted that even within municipal public buildings in HRM, there seem to be different closure procedures. The Committee considered bringing forward a motion to ask for a staff report that would review the issue.

The Committee approved a motion recommending that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to review closure procedures for all municipal public buildings with the view of making closure notification, including emergency procedures, accessible to everyone.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications of conducting the review (with internal or external resources) would be provided in the recommended staff report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM are open to public attendance. The agenda, reports and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM did not discuss alternative recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6517
