

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: November 3, 2022

Subject: Gendered Approach to Zoning Bylaws

Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:

That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee:

Request staff report(s) and recommendations for ultimate consideration by Regional Council:

1. Examining the negative gendered effects of restricting commercial business's hours of operation in certain areas and how to minimize such effects;
2. Examining how proposed by-law changes may be consistently reviewed from gendered lens; and
3. Reviewing how existing zoning by-laws may adversely impact the safety of women and gender diverse individuals in the HRM area.

Reason:

Zoning by-laws affect the safety of women and gender diverse individuals. Lighting specifically is known to make individuals feel safer at night in public spaces, especially women and gender diverse individuals.

A comprehensive zoning and lighting strategy is pivotal to both perceived and real safety of women and gender diverse individuals. Organizations like Oxfam have conducted research on the importance of lighting for individuals. Other research on gender-transformative programming exists and the Women's Advisory Committee urges the use of these helpful resources.

Moving forward, the Women's Advisory Committee believes that prior to a change in zoning by-laws, especially in residential areas, it is vital to review the change from several lenses, among which is a gendered lens that takes into account women and gender diverse individuals. Therefore, amendments to zoning by-laws should be gender-sensitive and implemented with input from gender-diverse individuals.

Outcome Sought: That Council applies an intersectional gender lens to identify and eliminate street safety concerns for diverse women, girls, non-binary, and gender diverse people and to adopt an inclusive method of policy making.

Haneen Al-Noman, Member of Women's Advisory Committee

