



Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

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Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee:

Summary:

On July 12, 2016, City Council passed EX16.37 requesting an across the board budget cut of 2.6% net below the 2016 Approved Net Operating Budgets for all City Programs, Agencies, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, and Accountability Offices.

Since then I have heard from some of the agencies that help our most vulnerable citizens that an across-the-board budget cut would impact services and agencies that are vital to their wellbeing. This includes the Toronto Public Library Board, has said that a 2.6% cut would mean service reductions, the Toronto Public Health Board, who said that a 2.6% cut would stop low-income students from getting healthy snacks in our schools, and from Toronto Community Housing Corporation who said that a 2.6% cut would force the closure of some units.

What ties these cuts together is their impact on our most vulnerable residents, residents that include those with disabilities. It's not just our libraries, and schools and housing. It will include our parks, our recreational programming, our transit system and our shelter system. A 2.6% budget cut will create new challenges and burden residents who are already marginalized including our seniors, our newcomers and those struggling with poverty.

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* requires us to remove barriers for individuals with physical or mental disabilities, be the barrier physical, architectural, informational, attitudinal, technological or through a policy or a practice. A 2.6% budget cut will only serve to create new barriers by denying our most vulnerable residents the critical city services they need.

Therefore, I request that the Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee puts forward the following recommendation to the Executive Committee:

Recommendation:

Request the Executive Committee to convey on behalf of the Disability, Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee to City Council that a 2.6% cut to the City of Toronto Budget will adversely impact individuals and families living with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Ward 27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Chair, Disability, Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee