



TEANECK DEMOCRATIC MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE
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**TEANECK DEMOCRATIC
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE**

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August 11, 2020

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayors, Council Members and Town Manager,

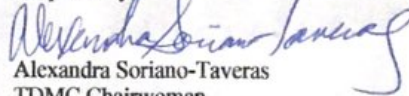
The TDMC respectfully petitions the council to table the revised ordinance regarding Advisory boards that is scheduled for adoption at the council's next public meeting. The TDMC believes these changes are unwise and potentially counterproductive.

- Democracy demands openness and transparency.
- Good decision-making depends on consideration of multiple viewpoints, especially those that may contradict one's own perspective.
- Wise legislation requires open minds and open hearts to the needs of diverse constituencies.

The proposed ordinance fails to protect any of these needs.

- Rather than promoting openness and transparency, advisory board meetings will now be closed to the public without a special approval process requiring special dispensation from the board's chair.
- Instead of encouraging a diversity of opinion, all positions--including that of the chair--will now be hand-picked by the council majority.
- And, rather than working to benefit from the broad knowledge of the variety of opinions and expertise, the ordinance puts limits on the size of boards and membership terms that will, de facto, limit representation of the diverse communities that in the past have defined the strength and vibrancy of our community.

Respectfully,


Alexandra Soriano-Taveras
TDMC Chairwoman