

**Ref: 2006-11-I(03)**

October 6, 2006

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

City Council on September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

**I(3) Establishment of a Property Assessment Reform Task-Force (PART)**

*Moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Stintz*

**“WHEREAS**, in 1998, the Province of Ontario imposed the unfair system of Current Value Assessment (CVA) on all City of Toronto properties; and

**WHEREAS** since 1998, Current Value Assessment has produced steady and steep reassessment and tax increases in nearly half of all City Wards in the City of Toronto; and

**WHEREAS** a basic principle of any tax system, especially a municipal tax system, is that it be fair, logical, predictable and stable; and

**WHEREAS** municipal property tax should relate more to municipal services consumed than to the market desirability of the assessed property's location; and

**WHEREAS**, in many cases, residents are paying more taxes and receiving less service; and

**WHEREAS** it is City Council's basic and moral responsibility to calculate taxes fairly; and

**WHEREAS** there has been a near total lack of focus on this issue here at City Hall for the last seven years, while the volatility and unfairness of CVA continues unchecked; and

**WHEREAS** City Council needs to effectively communicate to the Province the need and desire to control its system of property tax assessment, in order to have autonomy over its most fundamental revenue tool; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Ombudsman's scathing criticism of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) offers both the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario a renewed opportunity to reform the present volatile and malignant municipal tax system;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** City Council immediately establish, in accordance to the terms of reference appended to this Motion, a 'Property Assessment Reform Task Force (acronym = PART)' to deal with reform of the property assessment system by investigating other property assessment systems in use in other provinces and other countries to create new options for property assessment systems that may be used by the City of Toronto to collect municipal property taxes in a more fair, equitable, predictable and affordable manner, and that such Task Force will lobby the provincial government for Property Tax Assessment Reform, and that the attached terms of reference be approved."

Council also considered the following:

- (July 26, 2006) from the City Clerk [Communication 2(a)];
- Terms of Reference - Establishment of Task Force: Property Assessment Reform Task-Force (PART); and
- Fiscal Impact Statement (July 26, 2006) from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd

Attachments