

June 26, 2007

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

City Council on June 19, 20 and 22, 2007, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

### **M64 Council Office Space at Civic Centres and Budget Transparency**

*Moved by Councillor Moscoe, seconded by Councillor Filion*

#### **SUMMARY:**

City Council at its meeting held on May 23, 24 and 25, 2007, considered Item EX8.2, headed "Remuneration and Expenses of Members of Council and of Council Appointees to Local Boards and Other Special Purpose Bodies for the year ended December 31, 2006 (Ward: All)", which is an exercise designed to hold some Councillors accountable, by requiring them to pay rent for office space at the Etobicoke Civic Centre.

During that debate, it became apparent that the City policy that requires Councillors to pay rent for office space at Civic Centres is a factor that has induced some Councillors to take measures to secure this space without paying for it.

It makes no sense whatsoever to force Councillors to vacate offices in order to leave them empty. That has been the case for several years at all of the suburban Civic Centres. Councillors have been economically evicted from their offices which have remained empty for several years when that space could, and should, have been available to service constituents close to home.

It is in that respect that an urgent policy change is required. In view of the debate that is taking place surrounding the "Etobicoke Civic Centre Controversy", it is important that, in order to make Council's intentions clear, this policy change needs to take place at this meeting of Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Members of Council who so require, be provided with currently vacant space at Civic Centres for use as satellite offices at no cost to their office budgets and Members currently using this kind of space be relieved of the responsibility for paying rent for such space on a go forward basis.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd