

July 25, 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

M90 Report Request – Feasibility of a Municipal Casino *Moved by Councillor Palacio, seconded by Councillor Mammoliti*

SUMMARY:

Several major North American Cities, including Canadian ones such as Winnipeg, have established Casinos within their City limits. A municipally-owned and operated casino within the City of Toronto has the potential to create a tremendous amount of revenue for the City to fund major City building initiatives.

The revenue from such a venture could be dedicated specifically to transit, social infrastructure or to directly address the City's financial crisis.

At the moment, many options are already available to City of Toronto residents for gaming, such as the City's numerous Bingo Halls, facilities like Woodbine Racetrack and temporary casinos such as the CNE. Casino Niagara in Niagara Falls and Casino Rama in Orillia already offer free transportation to and from the Casino to Toronto residents. New Casinos on the U.S. side of the border at Niagara Falls are benefiting from a windfall of Toronto gaming enthusiasts. Toronto should explore the possibility of a municipally-owned and operated Casino, as a means of generating revenue and economic growth within the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the City Manager and City Solicitor report to an upcoming meeting of the Executive Committee on the legal feasibility of establishing a municipally-owned and operated Casino in the City of Toronto.
2. That this report discuss the possibility of the Province of Ontario partnering with the City of Toronto in this venture.
3. That this report discuss the potential economic and social impacts of this proposal.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd