

## **Cost of Polling for Traffic Calming Projects**

<b>Date:</b>	November 5, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Clerk
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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At its September 26 and 27, 2007 meeting City Council requested that the City Clerk report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee providing the total cost of polling for traffic calming projects in the City of Toronto, such costs to be broken down into budget categories.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

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### **DECISION HISTORY**

Following amalgamation, City Council directed the Acting City Clerk to “report on a democratic method of conducting polls whereby all property owners (citizens and non-citizens) are afforded equal rights in any polling process.” (Works Committee, Report 16, Clause 13(a) adopted by City Council on November 6, 7, 8, 2001).

At its April 25, 26 and 27, 2006 meeting City Council adopted the methodology recommended by the City Clerk's Office entitled "Overview of Past Polling Practices and Recommendations for Future Polling Procedures" and enacted Bylaw No. 677-2006 "To adopt a new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 190, Polling and Notification Procedures".

This report arises due to a report from Transportation Division being considered at City Council at its meeting on September 26 and 27, 2007 entitled "Proposed Amendment to Polling Process for Traffic Calming Projects" where Transportation was seeking Council approval to bring its current Traffic Calming Policy in line with City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 190, Polling and Notification Procedures.

## **COMMENTS**

In January 2007, the City Clerk's Office, as directed by Chapter 190 of the Municipal Code, assumed responsibility for Traffic Calming polling projects.

Traffic Calming polling begins with the Transportation Division requesting Elections & Registry Services Section (ERS) of the City Clerk's Office to conduct a poll and provides ERS with the following details:

- Specific Area to be polled
- Question on the Ballot
- Translation (as received from Councillor)

Briefly, once Elections & Registry Services receives a poll request, the process outlined in Chapter 190 outlines the following procedure:

- creating the ballot;
- compiling the polling list;
- arranging for translations;
- issuing the ballot;
- counting the valid ballots;
- compiling the results; and
- communicating the results to the responding residents, the requesting division, the affected councillor(s) and the public (via a posting on the City's website).

The average cost of a poll associated with the process mentioned above, including staff time (salary and benefits) and material costs is \$676.56 per poll. The Transportation Division estimates that on an annual basis the number of polls requested will total approximately fifty (50).

The total costs associated with Traffic Calming polling projects are:

<b>Budget Expense Category</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Salaries & Benefits	Staff Time (based on the average processing time)	\$23,828
Services & Rents	Translations	\$1,000
Interdepartmental Charges	Printing	\$1,000
	Paper	\$1,000
	Postage	\$7,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$33,828</b>

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Ulli S. Watkiss, City Clerk