

COST SAVING MEASURES RELATED TO COUNCILLORS' OFFICE BUDGETS

Date:	January 30, 2008
To:	Budget Committee
From:	Councillor Doug Holyday
Ward:	All Wards
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Scrutiny and public knowledge of Councillors' office expenditures have revealed questionable use of the public purse by some members. To prevent continued abuse in this regard, a description and list of qualified expenditures should be developed. This will enable staff to vet expenditure submissions as to acceptability. A standard form should be designed so that all uses are categorized and back-up documentation is included. The practice of donating to community groups through the office budgets should be stopped.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Budget Committee recommend to Council the following changes to the Councillors' annual office budgets:

Reduce Councillors' annual office budgets from \$53,000 to \$25,000;
Use Revenue Canada filing and descriptions to guide for kilometerage claims;
Allow restaurant or food claims (no alcohol) only with proper documentation, a note to indicate attendees present, and the reason the meeting is not being held in the City offices. Date, place and time to be included in the reimbursement claim;
Have a standard newsletter format prepared for Councillors' use;
Eliminate the practice of donating to community groups.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

These recommendations will result in cost savings of \$1,232,000.00.

Douglas C. Holyday
Councillor – Etobicoke Centre