

Ref: 2008-M20.6

May 5, 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

City Council on April 28 and 29, 2008, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

M20.6 Waterfront Toronto – Request for Information
Moved by Councillor Minnan-Wong, seconded by Councillor Ootes

SUMMARY:

Since its inception, Waterfront Toronto (formerly the Toronto Waterfront Corporation) has commissioned many reports and hired many consultants costing millions of dollars. Their procurement policy flows through the government Contribution Agreement which states that all procurements over \$75,000.00 must be competitively tendered. Their own internal procurement policy requires any sole sourced contracts between \$25,000.00 - \$75,000.00 must be reported to the Board and its Committees.

In a communication Waterfront Toronto has stated:

Information of sole sourced contracts greater than \$75,000.00 are taken to the Board of Directors and Board discussion is reflected in Board minutes-accessible through our web site. Our web site also includes our annual report which contains financial statements. Those statements are reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee and Board. Included in the financial statements in Schedule A is a summary of all expenditures directly related to each project approved by the three governments.

Notwithstanding this information, the web site of Waterfront Toronto provides very little information with regard to the description of these contracts, their purpose and cost. Very little information, if any is provided in the Minutes of the Board Meetings which are posted on their web site.

Repeated attempts to obtain this information have been refused.

Residents of the City of Toronto should have easy access to this information. Since its inception, the Waterfront Toronto has increased its staff from 4 to 65. Corporate costs have increased dramatically. Since 2006 funds spent on Communications and Public Consultation have increased over 250 per cent. Corporate costs have increased by 100 per cent since 2005.

Section 9 of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Act, 2002 reads:

“Upon the request of the federal government, the provincial government or city council, the Corporation and its subsidiaries, if any, shall promptly make their financial records available for inspection.”

RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Council request Waterfront Toronto to make the financial records of all contracts awarded over \$10,000 since 2001 available for inspection by City Council, such detail to include, at a minimum:
 - the amount of the contract;
 - the award recipient;
 - if the contact was sole-sourced;
 - a description of the contract; and
 - the date of completion of the contract.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd