

Ref: 2008-M20.8

May 5, 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

M20.8 City of Toronto Act, 2006 - Need For Council Debate and Discussion

Moved by Councillor Del Grande, seconded by Councillor Walker

SUMMARY:

The City of Toronto Act, 2006, was proclaimed on January 1, 2007, providing the City with broad powers and significant legislative freedoms. This piece of legislation gives the City new powers in passing by-laws to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City. Toronto now has the ability to delegate powers and service responsibilities to boards and to establish City Corporations. New Revenue Tools, like the Vehicle Registration Fee and the Municipal Land Transfer Tax, were passed by City Council as a result of the new legislation.

Furthermore, the City of Toronto Act, 2006, also allows Mayor Miller to appoint and dismiss certain Councillors as Chairs of Standing Committees and members of the Executive Committee. At the June 27, 2006 City Council Meeting, there was a debate and vote to implement the new City Governance Model to be put into effect for the 2006-2010 City Council Term.

Through the Mayor's Fiscal Review Panel, they have suggested that the Mayor be given additional powers to govern the City. Mayor Miller has acknowledged that he has had discussions with the Province of Ontario on his own, without consulting City Council and the public, on increasing his powers.

The increased powers of the Mayor include but may not be limited to the hiring or firing of the City Manager and the ability to have closed meetings with certain City Councillors and not the entire Council. The Province of Ontario will be reviewing the City of Toronto Act, 2006, as of January 1, 2009.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That any suggestions, recommendations and changes to the City of Toronto Act, 2006, proposed by Mayor Miller, be brought to City Council for debate and discussion.
2. That any decisions passed by City Council on the City of Toronto Act, 2006, be given to Mayor Miller as a Council-approved directive to discuss changes and recommendations with the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd