

**Ref: 2008-M20.12**

May 5, 2008

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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

**M20.12 City Request Provincial Government to Confirm the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and Deny Additional Powers to Mayor**  
*Moved by Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Vaughan***SUMMARY:**

The independent fiscal review panel that recently reviewed the City's economic situation, along with the Premier of Ontario, believe that Toronto should have a "strong mayor system". They have suggested that the Mayor should have more authority and power, in addition to what is provided under the City of Toronto Act, 2006. The Mayor has echoed these sentiments and plans to ask the Premier to grant him additional powers. The Mayor already has substantial powers, including his ability to appoint Chairs to the standing committees, thus forming the composition of the Executive Committee.

The City of Toronto is democratically governed by a Council made up of forty-four elected Councillors, and one Mayor. The current structure allows essential participation by all, and prevents an autocracy. The fiscal review's panel called the current system "needlessly politicized". In fact, granting sweeping powers to the Mayor would further politicize municipal government.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Toronto City Council request the Province of Ontario to reaffirm its commitment to the City of Toronto Act, 2006 in its current form, and neither endorse nor grant any requests to increase the powers of the Mayor, without the consent of Council.
2. Any proposed changes to the City of Toronto Act, 2006 must be approved by Toronto City Council before being presented to the Province of Ontario for consideration.

3. Toronto City Council request that the Province of Ontario not grant authority to the City's Executive Committee to meet in-camera at their discretion, as this Committee already meets privately when warranted, to discuss real estate transactions, personnel and legal matters.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd