

Councillors' Access to 3-1-1 Information

Date:	November 16, 2007
To:	Government Management Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Mr. George Rust-D'Eye of the firm WeirFoulds LLP has been retained by the City of Toronto to prepare the opinion requested by Council.

The motion put forward by Councillor Palacio is very similar to the IBMS issue and will be dealt with in Mr. Rust-D'Eye's legal opinion.

The legal opinion with respect to the right of access to information by Members of the public and Members of Council will address access to the 3-1-1 system.

Financial Impact

No financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on September 26 and 27, 2007, adopted the following motions:

1. Council receive the report (May 28, 2007) from the City Manager, for information
2. Council endorse the principles recommended by the Licensing and Standards Committee with regard to by-law provincial statute investigations [Item LS7.1].
3. Council direct the City Manager to commission a legal opinion from a law firm with respect to the right to access to information by:
 - a. Members of the public; and

b. Members of Council,

such law firm to be determined by the City Solicitor based on proven expertise in municipal and privacy legislation.

4. The report advise what adjustments to City policies and practices will be necessary to maximize access to information by these groups, at the same time, remaining within the intent of the MFIPPA legislation, as well as placing sufficient limits to avoid prejudicing bylaw and provincial statute investigations.
5. Funds for the report be provided within the existing Legal Services divisional budget.
6. The report include comment on the feasibility of requesting the Province to amend the City of Toronto Act to change the role and status of Members of Council.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Mr. George Rust-D'Eye of the firm WeirFoulds LLP has been retained by the City of Toronto to prepare the opinion requested by Council.

Mr. Rust-D'Eye is currently undertaking research and hopes to report to Council early in 2008.

COMMENTS

The motion put forward by Councillor Palacio is very similar to the IBMS issue and will be dealt with in Mr. Rust-D'Eye's opinion.

The City Solicitor has forwarded the communication to Mr. Rust-D'Eye for inclusion in the report.

Mr. Rust-D'Eye is currently undertaking research and hopes to report to Council early in 2008

CONTACT

Colleen Bell, 3-1-1 Project Director
Telephone: 416-392-8374, Fax: 416-338-0808
E-mail cbell@toronto.ca

Suzanne Craig, Director CAP
Telephone: 416-392-9683
E-mail sraig@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Shirley Hoy, City Manager