



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**A Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability
Officers – Technical Amendment**

Date:	October 19, 2009
To:	City Council
From:	City Manager
Wards:	ALL
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The bill to enact a new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter for the accountability officers is currently before City Council at its October 26 and 27, 2009 meeting. The new Municipal Code Chapter implements the provisions approved by City Council when in April 2009 it adopted the staff report, A Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability Officers. The policy framework sets out their features of independence, accountability mechanisms to City Council and the administrative and operational supports for their offices.

This report seeks authority to require a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of City Council (30 members) to amend or repeal the new Toronto Municipal Code Chapter in order to ensure consistency across the four accountability officers. The requirement for a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of City Council is already in place to amend or repeal the respective sections of Chapter 169, City Officials for the Auditor General and Ombudsman but is not in place for the Lobbyist Registrar and the Integrity Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council require a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of City Council (30 members) to amend or repeal the new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter implementing the Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability Officers adopted by Council at its meeting of April 2009; and

2. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to prepare and introduce in Council any bills required to implement the requirement described in recommendation 1.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 29 and 30, 2009, City Council adopted the staff report, A Policy Framework for Toronto's Accountability Officers that included the establishment of a new Municipal Code Chapter reflecting the provisions described in the report.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-19953.pdf>
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-20619.pdf>

COMMENTS

The bill to enact the new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter for the accountability officers is currently before City Council at its October 26 and 27, 2009 meeting. The establishment of the new Municipal Code Chapter requires moving the current sections for the Auditor General, Ombudsman and Lobbyist Registrar contained in Chapter 169, City Officials and in Chapter 140, Lobbying to this new Chapter.

This report seeks authority to require a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of City Council (30 members) to amend or repeal the new Municipal Code Chapter for the accountability officers. The requirement of a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of City Council is already in place to amend or repeal the respective sections of the Toronto Municipal Code for the Auditor General and Ombudsman. This technical amendment will ensure consistency across all four accountability functions and reinforce their direct accountability to the full legislative body.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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