

April 14, 2009

Mayor David Miller
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W
Office of the Mayor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Miller and Members of the Executive Committee:

I request that the Executive Committee consider the rigidity of the policy on election contribution rebates and whether to reopen the Contribution Rebate Program for the 2006 Election to permit persons who did not submit a rebate application prior to the filing deadline to have another opportunity to do so.

The rules for applying for a contribution rebate are rigid - no application is accepted after the final date. Arguably, this is evenhanded and provides equal opportunity to all campaign contributors, but it may be unfair to those who miss the filing deadline due to unforeseen circumstances.

It has come to my attention that there are over 4000 campaign contributors in the 2006 municipal election who have not received rebates - including one husband and wife who each donated \$1,000 to a candidate for Council. Not to receive a campaign rebate due to a technicality of timing is surprising to citizens. It can present a hardship.

Consequently, I request the Executive Committee to consider as an agenda item at its next meeting and adopt the following:

Recommendation 1

That the City Clerk be requested to report to the Executive Committee on

- the number of persons who did not receive a 2006 election rebate;
- the costs and benefits of reopening the Contribution Rebate Program for a period of two months; and
- possible options on changes to policy for future elections to permit the Clerk more flexibility in processing rebate applications after the specified rebate period.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours very truly,

Cliff Jenkins
Councillor, Ward 25

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