

INQUIRY OF THE CITY MANAGER

From: Councillor Michael Walker
To: City Manager – Mr. Joseph Pennachetti
Date: April 16, 2009
Re: Report on the number of Community Councils under the new Council Governance Model

Dear Mr. Pennachetti,

City Council on June 27-29, 2006 debated Report 5, Clause 1 from the Policy and Finance Committee and amended the clause with several additions. One such addition stated:

- (3) *referring the following Recommendation (I)(12) of the Policy and Finance Committee to the City Manager:*

“(I)(12) the number of Community councils be reconsidered and the City Manager and City Clerk report in the first quarter of 2007 on options for the number, boundaries and operational issues required to implement this change;”,

With a request that she address the following:

- (i) the pros and cons of additional Community Councils;*
- (ii) whether Community Councils should be held in the evening; and*
- (iii) options for community consultations as an alternative to additional Community Councils;*

I made this same inquiry to Ms. Shirley Hoy on January 14, 2008. Implementation matters for the new City of Toronto Act as well as increased delegated powers to the existing Community Councils were then cited as the main reasons for the delay. Ms. Hoy indicated in her response dated January 21, 2008 that, “staff intend to report on governance implementation matters in the latter part of 2008.” To the best of my knowledge, this report was not submitted and we are now well into the 2009 calendar year.

My question is:

- 1) When will your office be following up on Council’s directive of June 27-29, 2006 and report on the above mentioned item to City Council?**

Sincerely,

Michael Walker
Councillor – St. Paul’s



Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager

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April 22, 2009

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk, City of Toronto
12th Floor, West Tower
City Hall

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

I have received the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Michael Walker dated April 16, 2009, entitled: 'Report on the number of Community Councils under the new Council Governance Model'.

When it approved the new governance model in the previous term of Council (June, 2006) Council referred several motions about the number of Community Councils and other matters to the City Manager, including the motion which is the subject of Councillor Walker's inquiry.

The new governance model is just two years into implementation, including a new Council-committee structure and expanded delegation of authority to Community Councils for decision making about local matters (which was approved by Council early in 2007).

It is my understanding that the governance model was to be viewed as a comprehensive group of changes and be evaluated as a whole, rather than reporting on any one aspect. In my view a report back on these matters is not appropriate at this time given the major issues that City Council is currently dealing with.

Yours truly,

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager

c: Mayor David Miller

