

Denzil Minnan-Wong

COUNCILLOR, DON VALLEY EAST, WARD 34

Jeffrey Griffiths
Auditor General, City of Toronto
Auditor General's Office
Metro Hall, 9th Floor
55 John Street
Toronto ON M5V 3C6

March 15, 2010

Dear Mr. Griffiths,

RE: Management Control of Using Personal Vehicles for City Business and Charging \$0.52 per Kilometre

I am writing to seek your advice and assistance with regards to information I have obtained which raises very serious questions about the City's policy relating to employees charging for car use on a per kilometre basis (\$0.52 per km).

Documents I have received from a Freedom of Information request indicate that some employees are charging thousands of dollars, and in some cases, amounts exceeding \$10,000.

A sampling of the results shows certain departments are more excessive in the amount of charges than others. The following are individual claims by City staff within one calendar year:

Technical Services	\$18,114
Solid Waste Management	\$17,483
Public Health	\$15,397
Parks and Recreation	\$9,630
Transportation Services	\$8,777
Toronto Water	\$7,852
Toronto Building	\$7,603
Facilities Management	\$6,289
Human Resources	\$6,283
Shelter Housing and Support	\$6,195
Deputy City Manager's Office	\$5,670
Municipal Standards	\$5,424

This research does not include any agencies, boards, or commissions of the City of Toronto.



The information raises a number of questions. Why does an employee need to drive more than 30,000 km annually? These amounts would be sufficient to purchase brand new vehicles for those making claims of tens of thousands of dollars over multiple years. Is this the most efficient way to spend and deploy resources? Are there sufficient management controls over these expenditures?

What about results and accountability? Because I obtained this information through a Freedom of Information request, I was refused the names and titles of the individuals who filed these charges. While I recognize that some staff need to travel in their own vehicles are we getting value and results from their car use?

In this regard, I note that one individual, Mr. Steve Whitter, has clocked over 20,000 kilometres and \$10,593.32 over the last two years. Many of these charges are for the purposes of monitoring the Green Bin Program, but I am unable to locate any reports or accounts arising from these documented visits. I have FOI'd any information or details documented pertaining to Source Separated Organics. The search came up with no results.

Mr. Griffiths, I would ask that you look into these matters and would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denzil Minnan-Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Denzil Minnan-Wong