
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM49.6	ACTION			Ward: All
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Review of Councillors' Salaries – by Councillor Moscoe, seconded by Councillor De Baeremaeker

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Moscoe, seconded by Councillor De Baeremaeker, recommends that:

1. City Council request that the Hay Group, in reviewing the salaries of Toronto Councillors, be asked to take into account the average compensation paid to the non-employee members of the editorial board of the Toronto Star.

Summary

This week the pre-election ritual of reviewing councillors' salaries began in earnest. Prior to this election the issue, like the trillium, blossomed every three years but now with a four- year term this ugly plant has morphed into a weed that always bears bitter fruit. Councillors will predictably fall all over themselves to prove to the electorate how frugal they are. They will disparage the expectations of their colleagues and publicly slash their wrists in an effort to out humble each other.

Candidates for Mayor, in their earnestness to become politicians, will propose huge cuts in pay to prove how little politicians are worth. There is always somebody willing to work for less in their desperation to take a job away from somebody else. Every minimum wage employer in Ontario counts on that human failing.

I note that once again the City has engaged the services of a consulting firm that specializes in reviewing compensation packages, the Hay Group. The Hay group will look at comparable positions and develop a logic around which they will offer up the perfect solution.

Council, the public and everyone else will promptly ignore their advice in their effort to prove how little they value their elected officials. Many elected officials will see how high on the grandstand they can climb to prove how little they value the job that they do.

I believe that in seeking advice of what our salaries should be we should turn to the experts that know best, the editors of the Toronto Star. They are always eager to give advice about this weighty subject. I know that managing a daily newspaper is far more important than managing the 9.2 billion dollar corporation called the City of Toronto but the wisdom of important people like the Star Editorial Board ought to be given the weight it deserves.

(Submitted to City Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 as MM49.6)