ılı TORONTO   **Member Motion**

City Council

MM45.1	ACTION			Ward: All

2010 Salary Freeze for Mayor and Councillors - by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ashton

* 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 Walker, seconded by Councillor Ashton, recommends that:

1.   City Council cancel the 2010 cost of living adjustment to the salaries of the Mayor and City Councillors.

Summary

The City's financial future has continued to deteriorate significantly over the last 2 or 3 years. The provincial and federal governments are projecting massive budgetary deficits far into the future due to the current global economic recession. The City finds itself more alone than before to solve its own financial problems without the prospect of one-time bailouts from the provincial and federal governments to offset the City's Operating Budget shortfall.

Due to the financial pressures the City continues to find itself under, we all must find ways of showing and following a strict line of fiscal restraint. And due to the fact the City will be negotiating the renewal of labour contracts with some of its employees (i.e. Police Services; Fire Services) beginning in 2010, City Council needs to set the tone for those discussions in order to mitigate the impact of these salary negotiations.

City Council must demonstrate sound decision-making based on fiscal restraint and the priorities of its citizens.

Therefore, the members of City Council should start showing this restraint by canceling their cost of living salary increase for 2010 (effectively, a salary freeze for 2010). Such a gesture will save taxpayer dollars and will help provide the City with additional moral authority when entering into negotiations over new funding arrangements or employee salary rates, as the City will be in the near future.

(Submitted to City Council on January 26 and 27, 2010 as MM45.1)