
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM47.4	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Environment Day and Other Councillor Events in an Election Year - by
Councillor Lindsay Luby, seconded by Councillor Bussin**

** 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 Lindsay Luby, seconded by Councillor Bussin, recommends that:

1. Given that Councillors continue to be a Member of Council with associated roles and responsibilities during an Election Year and each year including Election Year, Councillors host Environment Days and other events in their wards, Councillors should continue to be recognized as hosts of their respective ward Environment Days and other events until Nomination Day. This principle applies to all promotional materials for such events, whether they are funded from city program budgets or from the Councillor's office expense budget.
2. The Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Year policy (Section 4.7 of the Councillor Expense Policy) be amended so that the last bullet in the introduction section shall now read:

"Nothing in this Policy shall preclude a Councillor from performing their job as a Councillor, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the constituents who elect them. Events such as Environment Days, which Councillors have hosted in previous years, shall continue to be held after Labour Day and all advertising and promotion for Environment Days can continue to name their ward Councillor as hosts during an Election Year, including after Labour Day."
3. The first part of recommendation 12j in the Integrity Commissioner Policy on Donations to Member-organized Community Events be amended to read:

"In an election year, a Member of Council must not seek donations and sponsorships for any community event that has not been staged in the previous two years nor accept donations or stage any community event supported by donations and sponsorships after he or she has filed nomination papers for election to any office in the City of Toronto, except Environment Day events hosted by the ward Councillor."

Summary

Environment Days have been a successful program for many years, with the local ward Councillor as the host of the event in their respective wards. Environment Days are more than a solid waste depot. Councillors, as hosts for the event, are expected to attend the event, listen to constituents and their concerns, and discuss various City policies. Councillors also promote their ward Environment Days with community and newspaper advertising, door-to-door flyers and newsletters. These are funded from the Councillor's individual office expense budget.

Councillors have recently been advised by City staff that as 2010 is an election year, Environment Days will no longer be promoted as Councillor hosted events. Rather, they are now being promoted as a City program, and Councillors are not to be named in any City-paid promotional materials. This does not recognize the role of Councillors as hosts of Environment Days, which has been established in the past 10 years.

Councillors continue to be of a Member of Council until the end of the term, with their associated roles and responsibilities. One of these roles is to be the host of Environment Days in their respective wards. Therefore, it is most appropriate that Councillors continue to be recognized as hosts of Environment Days in their respective wards during an election year.

The Policy on the Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Year (section 4.7 of the Councillor Expense Policy) stipulates that all advertising and promotional materials paid for by City funds cannot name a Member of Council after Labour Day (September 6, 2010), irrespective of whether the Member is running for re-election or not. As Councillors continue to be Members of Council until the end of the term, and that one of their roles as a Councillor is to be hosts to Environment Days, the Policy on the Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Year should be amended.

The first bullet in the introduction section of the policy now reads: "Nothing in this Policy shall preclude a Councillor from performing their job as a Councillor, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the constituents who elect them." This bullet should be amended to now read: "Nothing in this Policy shall preclude a Councillor from performing their job as a Councillor, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the constituents who elect them. Events such as Environment Days, in which Councillors have hosted in previous years, shall continue to be held after Labour Day and all advertising and promotion for Environment Days can continue to name their ward Councillor as hosts during an Election Year, including after Labour Day."

Recommendation 12 of the Integrity Commissioner Report on "Issues Arising Out of Operation of Members of Council Code of Conduct and Complaint Protocol", approved by Council in July 2008, stipulates the Policy on Council Member-Organized Community Events. The first part of recommendation 12j states that ""In an election year, a member of Council must not seek donations and sponsorships for any community event that has not been staged in the previous two years nor accept donations or stage any community event supported by donations and sponsorships after he or she has filed nomination papers for election to any office in the City of Toronto."

It is recommended that this policy be amended to now read: ""In an election year, a member of Council must not seek donations and sponsorships for any community event that has not been staged in the previous two years nor accept donations or stage any community event supported by donations and sponsorships after he or she has filed nomination papers for election to any office in the City of Toronto, except Environment Day events hosted by the ward Councillor."

(Submitted to City Council on March 31, April 1, 2010 as MM47.4)