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September 6, 2011

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
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Ms Watkiss:

Re: Administrative Inquiry of the City Manager and Mayor Ford regarding Toronto Olympic bid decision

I am submitting this Administrative Inquiry under Municipal Code S27-61 to seek information about the City's decision not to bid to host the 2020 Olympic Games. I am requesting a response from the City Manager and the Mayor to the following questions. This matter is of great enough significance that I believe it should have been presented to Council for discussion and deliberation in the first place.

The simple fact that the deadline for submissions passed without an expression of interest from the City of Toronto is not the main issue. A passive non-decision is one thing, but having one Member of Council actively saying "no" and having it accepted as a final dictum is quite another. My chief concern is that a presentation was given and decision was made by the Mayor and accepted by staff without the benefit of Council's input. The Mayor and staff have a clear right not to support the bid, but for something as significant as this, it should have been brought to Council in the interest of open discussion and transparency.

City Council openly investigated, debated and voted on the 1996 and 2008 Olympic bids in addition to the 2015 Pan American Games. The media, community and business groups, and general public were involved in those city-wide discussions led by three different Mayors from those respective governments. Unfortunately, Toronto City Council did not have this same opportunity to thoughtfully consider 2020 Olympic bid.

In the spirit of transparency and openness, then, I ask the following questions of Mayor Ford and the City Manager:

A. OF MAYOR FORD

1. Did you have meetings or discussions with representatives of the Canadian Olympic Committee or any working group, or proponents interested in pursuing a

- bid for the Olympic Games, or representatives of other levels of government before deciding on behalf of City Council to reject the option to bid on them?
2. If so, when and with whom were these meetings held, and what information was provided about the cultural, social and financial impact of hosting the Games, as well as the possible long-term benefits and liabilities?
 3. Did you advise staff unilaterally that there would be no bid for the Games?
 4. Why was city council not informed, consulted, or advised of the Olympic proposal?
 5. Why was the general public not informed, consulted, or advised of the Olympic proposal?

B. OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Were presentations made with City Staff in attendance by representatives of the Olympic Committee or working group or proponents interested in pursuing a bid for the Olympic Games?
2. If so, when were these meetings held, and what information was provided about the cultural and financial impact of hosting the Games, as well as the long-term benefits and liabilities?
3. Were City Staff directed by the Mayor or his office not to pursue a bid for the Olympic Games?
4. Would you consider a decision to submit or reject a bid for the Olympic Games a decision most appropriately made by City Council?

Respectfully submitted,

Kristyn Wong-Tam
Councillor, Ward 27
Toronto Centre-Rosedale