

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM11.11	ACTION			Ward:All
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Free Press and Democracy - by Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** 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 Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. No media conference, no media event or news release by The City of Toronto and/or any agency, board or commission of the City, and/or any staff, hired consultant or elected official of the City of Toronto shall exclude by name any individual journalist or news organization.

Summary

A free press is fundamental to the functioning of democracy. To forbid, ban or frustrate one journalist or media outlet is a violation of the public's right to know. To ban, prohibit or frustrate press freedom is a violation of the basic democratic principles that are the foundation of responsible government. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms section 2 (6) also guarantees the freedom of the press and other media of communication.

(Submitted to City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011 as MM11.11)