

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM21.10	ACTION			Ward:20
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Investigating CityPlace power outages and capacity - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** 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 Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council request Toronto Hydro to conduct a review of the September 2016 power outages in the CityPlace neighbourhood, and report back as part of the next Quarterly Shareholder report, such review to include:
 - a. potential causes and preventative measures to prevent future incidents;
 - b. communications protocol during the incidents, and recommendations for improvement for major incidents;
 - c. maintenance of electrical infrastructure in the area; and
 - d. hydro capacity and planning in the local neighbourhood.

Summary

The CityPlace neighbourhood is home to a growing community of over 18,000 residents, most of whom live in tall towers and depend on elevators to reach their homes. The neighbourhood has a variety of businesses ranging from live-work units and local services to destinations that serve the crowds of sports fans and tourists visiting nearby attractions. The neighbourhood's demographics are diversifying and the area is experiencing a baby boom, so construction will begin in 2017 on two schools with a combined capacity of 1,100 students, a City community centre, and a City daycare facility.

In a three-week period this past August and September, residents in this tower community experienced four major power interruptions lasting between 3 and 18 hours. During the outages, many residents experienced challenges in accessing information from the Toronto Hydro hotline and website, which made the existing conditions even more difficult. I have been working closely with Toronto Hydro since the incidents to disseminate information and respond to questions and concerns about the outages. Toronto Hydro has worked closely with my office in response to our concerns, to communicate with the neighbourhood since the incidents.

The TOcore Planning study is our proactive strategy as a City to adequately build and service the neighbourhoods that are growing rapidly in the downtown. These services include electricity, clean water and sewers, along with the critical social infrastructure like parks, libraries, child care services, schools, and community facilities. Long-term electricity planning is a key component of this study.

However, in the immediate, we must ensure that our existing neighbourhoods have the infrastructure they need to access critical services like electricity. We have a responsibility to ensure that our residents have access to these services, and that our public energy provider is accountable to our communities. It is critical and urgent that we determine why the existing infrastructure has not been providing a reliable supply of electricity to the neighbourhood. Toronto Hydro has already replaced one of the cables that supplies power to CityPlace and now we need to understand if more work must be done.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM21.10