

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM13.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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It's as Easy as ABC - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the General Government and Licensing Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to work with the City Clerk and all City Agencies, Boards and Committees to enhance openness, accountability and transparency in the City's governance process by livestreaming their Board meetings and making livestreaming the default practice for such meetings held in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 at City Hall and to report back to the General Government and Licensing Committee by the end of the first quarter of 2020 with an update on these endeavours.

Summary

The City of Toronto Act states that the City must be accountable to the public and that the process for making decisions must be transparent in order to provide good government.

City Council and its committees' agendas, reports, minutes and decisions are posted online. City Council and its committees' proceedings are streamed live and posted online. The Toronto Transit Commission does likewise. The public is encouraged to deputize to Committees on agenda items. Furthermore, the City consults the general public on a wide range of policy initiatives. In Toronto, the public plays an essential role in ensuring the effectiveness of municipal decision making.

Moreover, livestreaming committee meetings is an important tool for the Mayor, City Councillors, their staff, City Staff and all Agency, Board and Commission Staff. It allows for the timely and accurate dissemination of information and decisions.

However, many important City meetings are not currently livestreamed. Some of these are held in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 at City Hall and therefore, could be streamed with little marginal cost as the equipment and process are already in place. For example, the Boards of the Toronto Parking Authority and CreateTO met at the same time on November 25, 2019 in those rooms at City Hall but neither meeting was livestreamed.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM13.2