
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM49.9	ACTION			Ward: All
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Safeguarding Members' Rights and Privileges - by Councillor Bussin, seconded by Councillor Lindsay Luby

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

1. City Council request the Council Speaker/Deputy Speaker to consult regularly with the Integrity Commissioner and the City Clerk to discuss issues related to the rights and privileges of Members of Council and ensure that the City Manager is made aware of emerging issues when necessary.
2. City Council request the Integrity Commissioner to prepare an "at-a-glance" version of the Code of Conduct in both hard copy format and posted on the City's Web site, which summarizes the provisions of the Code, includes past rulings and advice in respect of the Code, and also provides interpretation Bulletins to guide Members of Council.

Summary

City Council has many policies that affect Councillors and the conduct of their offices. From time to time, staff in the Toronto Public Service may change how they interpret or administer a City policy in such a way that it can impact the rights and privileges of Council Members. A recent example is the interpretation respecting the hosting of Environment Days by Councillors in an election year. This can lead to confusion on the part of both Members and staff.

City Council needs a mechanism to safeguard Members' rights and privileges in these circumstances. It is proposed that the Council Speaker/Deputy Speaker consult with the Integrity Commissioner and the City Clerk on a regular basis to discuss emerging issues that affect the rights and privileges of Members and bring these issues to the attention of the City Manager.

Given the number of policies that affect Members of Council, Members would also benefit from a summary or "at a glance" version of the Code of Conduct, with helpful references to past rulings and advice given in respect of the Code. These real life examples will help guide Members in determining appropriate conduct.

(Submitted to City Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 as MM49.9)