

Submitted by Councillor Wong-Tam.



ST 1.2.2

7 December 2010

Mayor Rob Ford
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Ford:

As new councillors, we have a concern about the Operating Budget schedule and our ability to participate meaningfully and deliberate effectively on behalf of our constituents on its content. We are eager to begin our work to assist you and prepare for the decisions Council must make, but the proposed timeframe does not allow us to fully understand the impacts and opportunities present, nor does it provide adequate time for us to consult with our businesses and residents.

The budget is one of the most important tasks of Council, wherein we set priorities and plans for both the city and the wards we represent. With that in mind, we are asking you to add meetings both inside and outside City Hall and in the process extend the time available for us to review the proposed Operating Budget, consult with staff and prepare our contributions to the Council debate. Like you, we recognize the importance of respect for taxpayers, and feel that extending the budget process to ensure transparency and accountability will contribute to that important principle.

In previous years, the budget process extended into March and April, and we ask that you adopt a similar approach this year. In addition, it would be immensely helpful to schedule, in the first week of January, a preliminary budget briefing for new councillors.

We look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,


Councillor Josh Colle

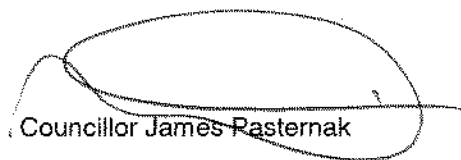

Councillor Sarah Doucette


Councillor Mary Fragedakis


Councillor Mike Layton

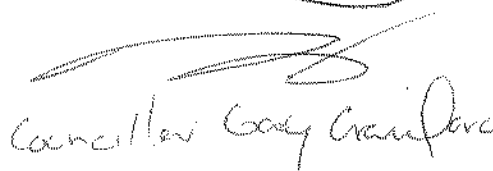

Councillor Josh Mattow


Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon


Councillor James Pasternak


Councillor Jaye Robinson


Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam


Councillor Gary Crawford

