



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Free Press and Democracy

Date:	September 27, 2011
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011, referred Motion MM11.11 to the Executive Committee.

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)