



**Councillor Paul Ainslie**  
Toronto City Council  
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Scarborough Community Council  
Chair, Government Management Committee

March 28, 2011

Government Management Committee  
City Hall 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

**Re: Motion: Placing the City Purchasing Card (PCard) information online**

Transparency has become an essential element in governments of the day. Taxpayers are demanding the fluid transition of their contributions, through taxation are being properly spent. It is for this reason the City Purchasing Card expenses need to be published online. City of Toronto Councillor Office budgets have been posted online since 2008. This has allowed the public and media to keep track on what Council Members are spending on a monthly basis, bringing some of the expenses to task.

The City of Toronto does have policy surrounding office expenses for all divisions; the policy is subject to interpretation whereby some past expenses have been scrutinized and justly so. The introduction of publishing office budgets online has given rise to new policies restricting some purchases as they have been deemed not to be beneficial to the office as a whole. There is however room for additional clarification for office expenses, the online posting has benefited this process and made Council Members more accountable with their office purchases.

It is for this reason that the City Purchasing Card (PCard) expenses are required to be published online for the public's preview as it will offer transparency for the expenses made by PCard holders.

As the City is currently reviewing and updating the expense claim policy and software, staff should be allocated until September 1, 2011 to begin to publish the PCard expenses online.

**Recommendation:**

**The Government Management Committee recommend that Toronto City Council approve the online publication of expenses made through the City Purchasing Card (PCard) and that the online publication commence September 1, 2011.**

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie  
Scarborough East Ward 43

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