
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM14.2	ACTION			Ward:All
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Usage of Councillor Staff Salary Budget to Pay for Constituency Office Lease Expenses - by Councillor Ron Moeser, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly

** 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 Ron Moeser, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council approve an amendment to the Councillor Expense Policy so that Councillors can choose to use up to \$20,000 of their annual Staff Salary Budget to pay for constituency office lease expenses.
2. City Council direct that this amendment be retroactive to September 1, 2011 so that Councillors can use up to \$6,666.67 of their 2011 Staff Salary Budget to pay for constituency office lease expenses in 2011.

Summary

Each Councillor is provided with an Office Expense Budget and a Staff Salary Budget for the operation of their office. For 2011, the Office Expense Budget is reduced from \$50,445 to \$30,000. The Staff Salary Budget, equivalent to the top of the range for three staff, is \$211,447.60.

The Councillor Expense Policy, approved by City Council in July 2008, stipulates that the Office Expense Budget can be used to pay for staff salary expenditures over and above the Staff Salary Budget, but the Staff Salary Budget cannot be used to pay for office expenses.

Councillors whose ward is located far away from Toronto City Hall or a civic centre needs to rent constituency office space on private property in their ward in order to ensure that constituents can resolve their ward issues at a location that is convenient and accessible. Each Councillor chooses to operate their office differently. It is important that flexibility be provided to Councillors so that the ability to rent constituency office space in their ward is not hampered by the cut in the Office Expense Budget.

A limit of using \$20,000 from the Staff Salary Budget to pay for constituency office lease expenses only would allow for this flexibility while maintaining the control over Councillor office expenses.

(Submitted to City Council on November 29 and 30, 2011 as MM14.2)