



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

City of Toronto calls for Comprehensive Review to determine why glass panels are falling from some high-rise buildings

Date:	September 23, 2011
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011, referred Motion MM11.5 to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Adam Vaughan recommends that:

1. City Council direct the appropriate City Officials to undertake a comprehensive review into glass panels falling from high-rises in Toronto, in consultation with other levels of government, engineers, builders, developers, trade unions, academics and industry organizations as necessary, and report back to the October Council meetings on their findings.
2. City Council direct that the report include recommendations on any changes to City approval processes and regulations and the Ontario Building Code necessary to prevent, to the greatest degree possible, future incidents of falling glass.
3. City Council direct that the report include actions to be taken on securing existing buildings, if necessary, against falling glass.

Summary

Over the course of past year, glass panels have shattered and fallen from several high-rise buildings in Toronto, causing great concern in the surrounding communities about public safety.

To date, despite the best efforts of City and development industry engineers, the cause of this hazard has not been determined conclusively and no explanation is available.

Council must ensure that the first priority of the City's processes, procedures and policies is to protect the communities that are home to tall buildings. Although opinions about the merits of tall buildings vary, everyone can agree that where they are approved and built, they should pose no risk to safety.

We have a responsibility to determine the cause of the falling glass and devise a solution.

(Submitted to City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011 as MM11.5)