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## 2013 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Video-Conferencing for Deputations by Persons with Disabilities

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#### Issue/Background:

The Budget Committee requested that the City Manager and the City Clerk provide a briefing note on any cost associated with allowing people with disabilities to participate as presenters through video conferencing at all Standing Committees.

#### Key Points:

- City Council has already requested a report from the City Clerk on this same matter, including the procedural changes necessary to give effect (MM24.17). The City Clerk will be reporting in early 2013.
- That report will provide a more detailed summary of the implications including any anticipated costs.
- In 2012 the City Clerk's Office piloted video-conferencing in two debates at City Council and the Economic Development Committee. As a result of the pilot tests, some technical and business process issues that need to be resolved in order for this to be offered as a reliable, predictable service were identified.
- Some of the technical issues will be addressed by a capital project included in the Facilities' 2013 Recommended Capital Budget in the amount of \$0.550 million. This project includes the conversion of certain equipment from analog to digital which will make it easier to accommodate persons with disabilities with video conferencing.
- The report will also address procedural issues such as amendments to Chapter 27, the impact on statutory meetings and related topics.

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