Member Motion

City Council

Member Motion

MM26.3	ACTION			Ward:All

Government of Ontario to Enter into Negotiations with the Insurance Industry to Offer Incentives for Back Water Valves and Sump Pumps - by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

**** 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 Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council call upon the Government of Ontario to enter into negotiations with the home insurance industry within the province to encourage the adoption of financial incentives for consumers who install back water valves and sump pumps in their houses including a provision prohibiting an insurer from rescinding insurance coverage where municipally approved devices are installed by an insured resident.

Summary

In July 2012, a significant number of homes within the City of Toronto experienced basement flooding as a result of a major storm. Many of these homes have experienced multiple floods in the past number of years. It is widely accepted that back water valves and sump pumps would have limited if not actually precluded the flooding of these homes. In view of the fact that climate conditions continue to evolve and Toronto, and the Province generally, are experiencing increasingly more significant rainfall events, it is advisable that the Government of Ontario enter into negotiations with home insurance representatives to encourage them to offer financial incentives to consumers who install, or have installed, back flow valves and sump pumps within their homes. Regulations or policies should preclude insurance companies from rescinding insurance coverage when a homeowner is prepared to make improvements to their drainage systems with approved devices as per recommendations and requirements of municipal building departments. In view of the reduced risk for insurance companies of flooding within the homes of residents who have these devices installed, it is both prudent and fair that consumers be encouraged through financial incentives to install these devices and be rewarded accordingly including a preclusion on the cancellation of their insurance coverage.

(Submitted to City Council on October 2 and 3, 2012, as MM26.3)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM26.3
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-50416.pdf)