





Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43
Chair, Scarborough Community Council
Chair, Government Management Committee
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

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Date: February 27, 2013
To: Government Management Committee Members
Re: Live Streaming Standing Committee and Community Council Meetings

Recommendation:

1. That the Government Management committee recommend that Toronto City Council authorize the Corporate Information Officer and the City Clerk to move forward to live stream all City Standing Committee meetings and Community Council meetings on the City's website by September 2013.

City of Toronto Council Meetings, are streamed live on the City website, providing residents an opportunity to become engaged in municipal affairs. The City's Standing Committees and Community Council act as an arm to City Council, it would be beneficial for residents to also be able to view these meeting as the agenda items are important matters that shape our City.

The ability to view the Standing Committees and Community Council provides for further interaction with residents who are unable to attend meetings in person. As these meetings occur on week days during working hours it is difficult for a majority of residents to attend to ensure their interests are being represented. Enabling the Committees to be live streamed would encourage public participation in local government it also provides an opportunity to listen to public deputations, specifically during budget proceedings.

City staff have advised that in order to achieve this practice the City would have to make an investment in servers, bandwidth and transcoding equipment. Upgrades are currently being upgraded though the Chief information office to sustain this use.

It is important that the City of Toronto maintain its place on the digital stage in communicating with resident Streamlining Standing Committee meetings would provide this important communication tool.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43