

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.29	ACTION			Ward:All
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Establishment of an On-line Petition System - Request for Report - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Government Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Clerk to report back to City Council by December 31, 2013 on the feasibility of establishing an official on-line petition system.

Summary

While the public is given multiple opportunities to provide input and feedback on local matters through comments submitted to or spoken at Committees of Council, and through a vote in municipal elections, the City of Toronto could improve government transparency and increase civic participation and awareness through the creation of an on-line petition system. The on-line petition system would serve as an official platform where 'e-petitions' could be posted and shared with other members of the public.

As suggested by members of 'My City My Voice', an initiative of the Canadian Coalition of Youth Councils, an official on-line petition system would be a constructive framework to engage with constituents within a responsive government, in an equitable approach to creating and modifying municipal policies. The official on-line petition system could be used as an additional tool for Members of Council to become more aware of local issues and city-wide matters. The on-line petition system would also incorporate the same values as Toronto's Open Data system, in an effort to further pursue our commitment to an open and accessible government which has the capacity and responsibility to empower all citizens.

Toronto Examples

- <http://toronto.mycitymyvoice.ca/better-governance/creating-an-online-petition-system>
- www.toronto.ca/open

International Examples of 'E-Petitions'

- Bristol City Council (UK)
 - http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/
- Government of the United Kingdom
 - <https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/how-it-works>
- German Parliament
 - <https://epetitionen.bundestag.de/>
- Queensland Parliament (Australia)
 - <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petitions>
- Scottish Parliament
 - <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/petitions/ViewPetitions.aspx>
- National Assembly for Wales (UK)
 - <https://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions/sign-petition.htm>
- The White House (US)
 - <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

(Submitted to City Council on November 13 and 14, 2013 as MM41.29)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.29