August 19, 2014

Members of the Economic Development and Culture Committee,

Re: Manufacturing Roundtable Report and recommendations to help business professionals.

Background:
The manufacturing sector is an essential part of our local economy. While manufacturing in the City of Toronto, as elsewhere, has seen a decline, it remains an important component of Toronto's economic landscape. Toronto's manufacturing firms employ about 120,000 people, representing nine per cent of Toronto's total employment. Manufacturing creates quality jobs and has high economic multipliers. A thriving manufacturing sector is a key component of a strong and balanced economy.

The attached Deputy Mayor’s Manufacturing Roundtable report summarizes the June 3, 2014 Manufacturing Roundtable meeting that we co-chaired.

Recommendations:
A diverse group of over 30 manufacturing stakeholders discussed the City of Toronto’s role in addressing the challenges that manufacturing firms face in the City. We ask that you consider the input from the participants, which is outlined in the report. Furthermore, we ask for the Economic Development and Culture Committee to endorse the recommendations contained within the report in order for Council to continue cultivating growth and prosperity for business in the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly
Chair, Executive Committee

Councillor Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development & Culture Committee