TORONTO   Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM52.9	ACTION			Ward:All

Authorization for Shelter Staff in the City of Toronto to Conduct "Warrant Checks" as Part of the Admissions Process for Clients When On-Site Staff Deem It Necessary - by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Mike Del Grande

* Notice of this Motion has been given.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Mike Del Grande, recommends that:

1.   City Council direct the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to amend regulations effective immediately to permit front line on-site shelter staff across the City to undertake "warrant checks" with the Toronto Police Service or other appropriate agencies when they deem it necessary for the security and safety of other clients or shelter staff, such information secured in the "warrant checks" to be used by shelter staff in accordance with applicable protection of privacy regulations as established by the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

Summary

Staff in shelters across the City of Toronto has been informed by the City's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration that "warrant checks" previously secured through the Toronto Police Service are no longer permitted to be undertaken by front line staff when admitting new clients to their facilities. This change removes a tool previously available to front line shelter staff to protect clients and on-site shelter staff from potential clients who have a history of violence. The prohibition on these types of checks in instances where staff deem it necessary creates a potentially dangerous situation for other shelter clients and a potentially unsafe work environment for shelter staff.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.9)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion 52.9