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## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM54.13	ACTION			Ward:All
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### **Fair Media Access on City Property - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette**

*\* 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 Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette, recommends that:

1. City Council direct that for all events held by the City, Mayor or Councillors to which media are invited, held at City Hall or in a City facility, all media outlets that are members of the City Hall Press Gallery be included.
2. City Council direct that City staff, including facilities and communications staff, only support events to which media are invited in spaces large enough to accommodate the expected numbers of media, such as the Members Lounge.

### **Summary**

The City Hall Press Gallery plays a vital role in the democratic process at City Hall and in Toronto's civic process. Residents across Toronto gather their information from a wide array of news organizations and it is essential that all members of the press gallery have equal access to media conferences at Toronto City Hall.

The journalists of the Press Gallery and their publications rent space at City Hall and the City of Toronto has an obligation to ensure that all media outlets are treated equally.

Recently Mayor Ford held a media Conference at City Hall at which he excluded accredited members of Toronto's Press Gallery.

Members of Council are free to decline media interviews but the Mayor or a Member of Council should not be permitted to hold a media conference on City property where accredited members of the Press Gallery are excluded.

(Submitted to City Council on July 8 and 9, 2014 as MM54.13)

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Revised Member Motion MM54.13

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-71096.pdf>)