City Council

Notice of Motion

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Alternative Options for Stronger Accountability - by Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Justin J. Di Ciano

* Notice of this Motion has been given.

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

Recommendations

Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Justin J. Di Ciano, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee by June 2015 with a review of the four Accountability Officers focussing on the legal, technical and process implications of appointing:

- a. one Officer to fulfil the roles of both the Ombudsman and the Auditor General; and
- b. one Officer to fulfil the roles of both the Integrity Commissioner and the Lobbyist Registrar.

2. City Council request the City Manager to work with the Accountability Officers and report to the Executive Committee in September 2015 on any opportunities for synergy and efficiency, where not already in place, and on the feasibility of combining common functions, processes, staff, facilities and information technology of the four Accountability Officers to strengthen and enhance seamless services, promote integrated casework, and to realize economies.

Summary

In light of Executive Committee Item EX4.1 regarding changes to the Toronto Municipal Code for the purpose of amending term lengths, and possible strategies to fill future vacancies in Accountability Officer positions, that discussion would benefit from an options analysis of appointing a single individual to fill multiple roles.

There are possible synergies to be found by combining oversight of investigative and reporting functions while maintaining compliance with existing legislation which requires Accountability Officers for the City of Toronto.

This Motion requests a review of the Accountability Officers with a focus on the legal,

technical and process implications of having a single individual fulfil more than one accountability role, while maintaining full services of each office. The impetus of such a change would be better service to citizens through coordinated intake and triage of cases, better information leverage, prioritization of resource and investigator allocation, increased subject matter expertise capacity, and stronger external communications.

The Motion also requests an overall review of common functions which support the four Accountability Officers to look for new opportunities of economy and stronger internal processes, including cooperative approaches to facilities and information technology.