DI12.3

October 13, 2016

To: Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Re: Accessible Communication at Meetings

Background:

After attending a meeting at the Toronto and East York Community Council in September, I wanted to find a way to implement more accessibility in the political process for people with disAbilities, specifically people living with speech/language difficulties and who use Augmentative communication and Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

All public consultations and meetings open to the public should include sufficient time (often extra time) for people using alternative communication/visual language in their deputation process. So far, what I have seen is that people that need extra time to communicate are given that extra time – which is awesome – but I would like to make that more transparent and in written form when it comes to public processes and consultations. It should be well known that for all public processes and consultations, the participation of people using alternative communication is encouraged and will be accommodated.

Recommendation:

That the Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee recommend to the Executive Committee that:

1. The City Manager and City Clerk review options to increase awareness of accessibility available for participation in public processes, consultations and committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri-Lynn Langdon