



GRANGE

To: The Special Committee on Governance, City of Toronto      **RE: GV4.2**      24 September 2019

Last Thursday, the Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto hosted a talk by Alan Harding, the chief economic advisor to Manchester's city government. His talk was called *Metropolitan Governance: Future Necessity or Misplaced Dream?* \*

Manchester has experimented with several municipal arrangements, including a two-tiered structure like we had with Metro. In his talk Professor Harding hardly mentioned any kind of citizen participation in governance other than voting, so afterward I asked him in approximately these words:

**Toronto City Council has formed a Special Committee on Governance to consider ways that Council could govern more effectively with a reduced number of councillors. From your experience, can you suggest two ideas that the Special Committee might think about?**

**I'm particularly interested in ways that *Residents Associations* might officially contribute to Toronto's governance. Does Manchester have any experience we could benefit from?**

Alan Harding said that nothing came immediately to mind, but that he would put me in touch with their municipal official who was a kind of "umbrella boss" of Manchester's volunteer organizations.

I'll keep the Special Committee informed about what comes of this and whether, for instance, I can find any precedent for a Residents Associations *research secretariat* within City Hall that could serve as a resource for both citizens and councillors.

*Max*

Max Allen  
VP Planning and Development  
Grange Community Association Inc. [Wards 10 and 11]  
[mallen6@sympatico.ca](mailto:mallen6@sympatico.ca)  
[www.grangecommunity.ca](http://www.grangecommunity.ca)

\* Online. Alan Harding: [https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/research/doc/?doc\\_id=515](https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/research/doc/?doc_id=515)

Alexandra Flynn: (The Role of Business Improvement Areas and Resident Associations in the City of Toronto)  
[https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/research/doc/?doc\\_id=513](https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/research/doc/?doc_id=513)