OFFICE OF
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Toronto City Councillor
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TORONTO CITY HALL
100 Queen St. West, 2nd Floor, B28
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November 1, 2019

Special Committee on Governance
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: GV5.2 Feasibility of a Transcription Service for City Council and Committee Meetings

Dear Chair and Members of the Special Committee on Governance:

In response to my motion requesting a report on implementing accurate, time effective transcription of the work we do at City Hall, City Clerks has prepared a report for your information.

While I am disappointed by the lack a recommendation for action to the committee, the report does highlight some important points: other jurisdictions are far ahead of us on providing this type of service to residents, there is an inherent value to having some form of transcript of our work for research and analytics and, most importantly, transcripts improve equity and accessibility for residents engaging with their municipal government.

I believe that providing an open, accessible and equitable City is critical for strengthening Toronto's future. We often hear Councillors discuss the value of engagement, consultation and transparency at City Hall. As a planner and an elected official, I know that making every effort to engage the public in our work and decision-making always improves and validates outcomes.

As a City we need to encourage Torontonians to get more involved in local decision-making. As the report states, removing barriers through services like transcription is a key tool in doing that, especially for those with accessibility concerns and those without access to high-speed internet. I will continue advocating for the City of Toronto to establish this service and will seek out the next governance review opportunity to highlight the value of making Council more accessible.

Respectfully,

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