

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM12.12	ACTION			Ward: All
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Empowering Toronto: Moving Forward with a City Charter - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** 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 Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee in the second quarter of 2020 on options for the City of Toronto to have additional autonomy from senior levels of government, including a City Charter protected through a single-province constitutional amendment, that provides authority over "municipal issues" including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. municipal elections;
- b. municipal governance structure;
- c. local land use and zoning decisions;
- d. local fiscal matters including the ability to determine revenue sources, set tax rates, borrow funds, and allocate monies; and
- e. personnel decisions.

Summary

Canada's constitution is a 19th century document written when our Country was largely an agrarian society. Toronto needs a new deal with senior levels of government that ensures we have the rights and abilities necessary for 21st century cities to thrive and achieve results for residents.

Common in the United States and elsewhere, Charter Cities have supreme authority over "municipal affairs." Also referred to as "Home Rule", a Charter City's law concerning a municipal affair will trump a state law governing the same topic.

A long history of events, including recent meddling in our local election the denial of highway tolls, and unilateral changes to our land use plans, has demonstrated that our City isn't able to fulfil basic functions residents expect of a municipal government without the looming threat of provincial interference.

Toronto is Ontario's capital and will continue to contribute to our Province's success as a whole. However, it's time for Canada's largest city to have the tools it needs to effectively chart its own course to decide how we grow, get around, support each other, and improve our quality of life.

A City Charter will also assist in making the division of roles and responsibilities between senior levels of government and City Hall more transparent and therefore more accountable to the public.

Council has already supported a City Charter in principle. This Motion requests the City Manager to now provide a report on delivering more autonomy for Toronto's local government.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM12.12