



September 14, 2020

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members of the General Government and Licensing Committee,

In July 2020 the Government of Canada released its *Covid Alert* app for mobile devices. This free software is designed to utilize wireless technology to inform citizens should they come into close proximity of another user of the app who has tested positive for Covid-19, so that they may take appropriate steps to limit the spread of the virus. The software works best when a critical number of users enable the technology, and the more applications installed, the more effective that it is.

Since then, media reports have indicated a modest uptake among Canadians despite the wide availability of the free app. While organizations across the country have made enormous efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19 through physical distancing, modified operations, restrictions, sanitization and handwashing, the free application appears to be underutilized. This software is a valuable tool in the fight against Covid-19, gaining strength in numbers.

The City of Toronto manages over 9,000 mobile devices for employees, and potentially thousands more within the span of influence of Council in the broader public sector. Given the negligible cost of deploying this software in an organized manner across its mobile devices, I am requesting that the City government investigate deploying this software across every device in the mobile fleet. If successful, this could pave the way for other public and private sector organizations to do the same.

I am writing to you to request that the General Government and Licensing Committee:

Direct the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, report directly to the September 30, 2020 City Council meeting on the feasibility of installing the *Covid Alert* app on all City of Toronto managed mobile devices and the necessary steps to maximize the benefit of the software.

Given that the latest case counts of Covid-19 in the City of Toronto are on the rise, I trust that you will share my concern and support this most urgent endeavour.

Sincerely,



Stephen Holyday
Deputy Mayor
Councillor - Ward 2
Etobicoke Centre