

Allowing Councillors Who Aren't Running to Maintain Communication with Constituents

Date: August 11, 2022
To: Executive Committee
From: City Council
Wards: Ward: All

CITY COUNCIL DECISION

City Council on July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2022, referred Motion MM47.39 to the Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council amend Section 4.7b of the Constituency Services and Office Budget and Section 5 of the Use of City Resources During an Election policy to allow Members not seeking re-election, by virtue having not registered at the close of nominations, to be able to publish communications, such as flyers, newsletters, enewsletters and website updates between nomination day and election day and that related expenses be paid by the City as part of the Constituency Services and Office Budget.

SUMMARY

In an election year, Council policy currently prohibits many forms of communication, including electronic newsletters between August 1 and the date of the election. This rule applies to all Councillors, whether they are seeking re-election or not.

This Motion would modify that policy so that it does not apply to Councillors who are not running, once that has been confirmed by the close of nominations.

I am requesting this change in large part because of an issue in my Ward - refugee housing at 3 Park Home Avenue - which the community is only becoming aware of now but is scheduled to open September 1. I believe that regular communication from me to my constituents during the first two months of operation (September and October) will facilitate a smoother introduction for this housing.

Communications (City Council)

(July 18, 2022) Letter from the Integrity Commissioner, Office of the Integrity Commissioner (MM.Supp)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/mm/comm/communicationfile-155655.pdf>)