



A New Civic Movement for A Better Toronto.

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Re: EX24.10 - Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in the Mayor's Office

Dear Executive Committee,

While I find it surprising that a motion advocating for greater transparency had to be referred to Executive Committee at all, I believe it's fair to say that the vast majority of Torontonians would support any initiative that increases openness and accessibility at City Hall.

Voter apathy is a growing problem in our city. One meaningful way to combat this is by shedding more light on the day-to-day workings of municipal government. In a fast-paced, often overwhelming media landscape, residents deserve the ability to watch their leaders speak directly – without media filters or editorial spin. Livestreaming press conferences and media availabilities empowers citizens to hear directly from the mayor and other officials, and to form their own independent views.

In fact, Robert Dahl in his excellent opus, *On Democracy* says, "A key character of a democracy is the continuing responsiveness of the government to the preferences of its citizens, considered as political equals. This responsiveness requires transparency, so that citizens can know what decisions are being made, by whom, and why."

If we are serious about restoring public trust and encouraging civic engagement, this is a small but important step in the right direction. I urge you to **support this motion** and return it to City Council with a strong recommendation to adopt it. Torontonians expect transparency. Let's deliver it.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tate