

From: [Shawn McCarthy](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.EX24.10 on June 17, 2025 Executive Committee
Date: June 13, 2025 1:54:07 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting on item 2025.EX24.10, Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in the Mayor's Office

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

On behalf of World Press Freedom Canada:

We are writing in support of **MM30.15 - Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in the Mayor's Office**, submitted to Toronto City Council last month, and to be considered by Executive Council on June 17, 2025.

World Press Freedom Canada is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes freedom of the press in concert with our World Press Freedom partners worldwide.

At a time when democracy is under threat around the world, it is crucial for Canadian governments at all levels to do everything they can to communicate to the public. As laid out in the submission, that includes live-streaming to provide opportunity for journalists working online to cover civic events

The motion calls on the Mayor of Toronto to begin livestreaming her news conferences, media availabilities and question-and-answer sessions with reporters. The motion also calls on the Mayor to grant access to these livestreamed events for council members and their staff.

Livestreaming of news conferences is becoming standard practice in the media landscape, as technical and cost impediments are removed; such objections to livestreaming no longer have any validity.

Livestreaming helps resolve many problems of news coverage for reporters. As the old business models for newspapers and broadcast outlets collapse, fewer front-line reporters are assigned more stories in a given day than ever before. Consequently, they must do more of this work remotely, relying on digital communications to save time travelling to and from venues.

Making livestreaming standard practice, which includes the ability of reporters to ask questions remotely, recognizes these challenges facing journalists and thereby improves transparency and accountability. Indeed, livestreaming should be made available to any citizen, not just reporters and council members.

World Press Freedom Canada applauds this motion as a positive step in ensuring that important information about the governance of Toronto is made available to the widest possible audience. We urge Toronto City Council to adopt the motion.

Shawn McCarthy
Past President & member of executive committee
World Press Freedom Canada
