
Deferral Report – Absences and Support for City Councillors

Recommendation

That a report be submitted to City Council recommending that the Administrative report respecting research, best practices, findings and recommendations regarding absences and support for City Councillors be deferred until the first quarter of 2018.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request deferral for receipt of an Administrative report dealing with research, best practices, findings and recommendations regarding absences and support for City Councillors, to the first quarter of 2018.

Strategic Goal

The information and recommendation contained in this report aligns with the Strategic Goal of Continuous Improvement and the leadership commitment of effective communication, openness and accountability.

Background

At the City Council meeting held on May 23, 2017, the attached motion of Councillor Block regarding absence and support for City Councillors was considered. City Council resolved:

1. That City Council instruct the Administration to research, investigate best practices, if any, and recommend various policy options that address absence and support for City Councillors as outlined in this Motion; and
2. That the Administration report its findings and potential recommendations to the Governance & Priorities Committee not later than October 31, 2017.

Report

According to *The Cities Act* a member of Council is disqualified from Council if the member is absent from all regular Council meetings held during any period of three consecutive months, starting with the date the first meeting is missed, unless the absence is authorized by a resolution of Council. There is no specific reference given to parental leaves, compassionate leaves or health-related leaves. The current state would require all leaves to be individually approved by City Council.

The finalization of a report addressing absence and support for City Councillors has been delayed. The Leadership Team Governance Subcommittee has undertaken research of other jurisdictions with respect to leaves of absences and support for members of Council. Information relating to parental leaves has been obtained. In particular, the City of Edmonton has conducted extensive research in this area and has drafted policy statements. This material is currently being reviewed.

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Research of the broader question of leaves of absence and support, including compassionate leaves and illness-related leaves continues and will require additional time to complete. The Leadership Governance Subcommittee therefore respectfully requests a deferral to the first quarter of 2018 to submit its report in order to provide Committee with a comprehensive report.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment(s)

Attachment 1 – Public Resolution 11.2 of City Council, May 23, 2017

Report Approval

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| Written by: | Joanne Sproule, City Clerk |
| Reviewed and Approved by: | Patricia Warwick, City Solicitor |
| | Mike Jordan, Director of Government Relations |

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