Minute No. 618
Report – Governance Committee of Council – June 19, 2014

Item No. 1 Councillors' Representation Allowance (CRA) Review

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council, as amended, that the following changes be enacted to the Councillors' Representation Allowance Policy, and adopted the following:

1. A new section be created in the Office Equipment / Office Supplies Section of the Policy that explicitly allows expenses for Community Offices including rent, utilities and any other expenses normally associated with the running of a Community Office;

2. That the CRA policy, rules and regulations including the audit of these funds on a yearly basis be extended to apply to Chairmanship funds, that is the funds received by Councillors in recognition of the extra duties and expenses incurred by virtue of acting as a Chairman of a committee / member of Executive Policy Committee;

3. That the Disclosure section of the CRA policy be amended for the postings for December and January each year to occur within 75 days of month end, rather than 30 days for the other months of the year, in order to accommodate the City's year end processing;

4. That the City Clerk's Department work with the Corporate Finance Department to ensure as much clarity as possible in the online posting of transactions including identifying the original vendor;

5. That the ability of the Governance Committee to approve donations to community groups of over $5,000 be removed and left to Council for approval;

6. That the City Clerk consult with the Mayor's Office to determine the spending requirements of that office, in order to develop a set of criteria, including a yearly audit of spending, that would apply to the Mayor's Office spending, in keeping with the spirit of CRA policy

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

7. That the Office Equipment section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow personal electronic devices / other similar devices purchased a minimum of 12 months prior to the end of a Council term be made available for sale to Councillors at fair market value, as determined by the City Clerk when they leave office, with this policy change to come into effect on July 1, 2014;

8. That the name of the CRA policy be renamed to the Councillors' Ward Allowance (CWA) Policy;

9. That the Community Expenses section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow Councillors to initiate and undertake Community Events such as Neighbourhood Clean-ups and other similar events that are of benefit to the ward, with a $5,000.00 limit per event per year and a limitation that projects not be undertaken after the registration period start date in an election year;

10. That the Councillors' Representation Allowance Policy be amended to allow unexpended funds to be carried over to the following budget year, at the discretion of the ward councillor, up to a maximum of 10% of the total ward allocation.

11. That all changes specified above be implemented at the start of the next budget year, January 1, 2015, unless otherwise noted above.

12. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

That the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council, as amended by the Executive Policy Committee, be adopted.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Katz asked to be recorded as having voted against the Item.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 25, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council with the following amendment:

- Delete Recommendation No. 3, and renumber the balance of recommendations accordingly,

and submitted the matter to Council..

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 19, 2014, the Governance Committee of Council recommended that changes be enacted to the Councillor's Representation Allowance Policy, for implementation on January 1, 2015, and forwarded the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.