Minute No. 376
Report - Executive Policy Committee - May 5, 2004

Item No. 2 **Establishment of Committee to Consider and Formulate a Taxpayers Bill of Rights**
File FL

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the April 21, 2004 Council Motion, pertaining to the establishment of Committee to consider and formulate a Taxpayers Bill of Rights be filed, as there is no foundation for same within our municipal processes and there is ample opportunity for public participation during the City's existing budget review process.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eadie,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the item be filed be adopted.

Councillor Wyatt called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Deputy Mayor Eadie, Councillors Clement, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas and O'Shaughnessy. 9

Nay: Councillors De Smedt, Wyatt and Lazarenko. 3

and the motion for adoption of the item was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 5, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee recommended that the April 21, 2004 Council Motion, pertaining to the establishment of Committee to consider and formulate a Taxpayers Bill of Rights be filed, inasmuch as there is no foundation for same within our municipal processes and there is ample opportunity for public participation during the City's existing budget review process, and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL:

On April 21, 2004, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,
WHEREAS citizens are raising concerns with regard to the City's tax policies and proceedings and;

WHEREAS based on recent court decisions, there clearly exists the need for greater citizen participation and taxpayer protection in our municipal tax system and;

WHEREAS a Taxpayers Bill of Rights could include and address issues such as retroactive tax demand decisions, the rights of taxpayers in relation to procedures of our Assessment Department, and referendum on new forms of taxation, but not limited to these items and;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council appoint a special committee, consisting of one member of each community committee, to consider and formulate a Taxpayers Bill of Rights that would provide for taxpayer protection, preservation of rights and opportunities for citizen participation and government transparency, and make recommendations regarding the changing of existing legislation and that the committee would report back to Council.