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May 16, 2006

Notice of Motion

Affirm The 3-Year Term

Moved by: Councillor Walker

Co-Seconded by: Councillor Jenkins
Councillor Pitfield
Councillor Shiner
Councillor Palacio
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Stintz
Councillor Ootes
Councillor Ford
Councillor Del Grande
Councillor Holyday

WHEREAS Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretsen indicated in late 2005 that ... “we will not be proceeding with amendments to the Municipal Elections Act ...we do not intend to proceed at this time with proposed changed to the term of office for municipal officials”; and

WHEREAS in a contrary manner, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced on February 21, 2006 that his government intended to introduce amendments to the Municipal Elections Act replacing 3 year terms with 4 year terms for all municipal Mayors, Councillors and School Trustees; and

WHEREAS from 1837 to the late 1950's, the City of Toronto had 1-year municipal terms; and

WHEREAS from the late 1950's to 1982, the City of Toronto had 2-year municipal terms with a succession of five progressive Mayoral greats, namely Nathan Phillips, Philip Givens, David Crombie, John Sewell and Art Eggleton; and

WHEREAS from 1982 to present, the City of Toronto has had 3-year municipal terms; and,

WHEREAS the frequency of elections is one of the most valued means for ensuring the highest standard of public accountability and transparency in municipal government; and

WHEREAS this standard has suffered badly in recent years as a result of alleged wrongdoing associated with events such as the MFP scandal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council petition the provincial government (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing) to place a plebiscite question regarding extending the term of office for Mayor, City Councillor, and School Trustee on the ballot of the November 13, 2006 municipal election to gain public input on this issue;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the appropriate City officials be requested to take any necessary action to give effect to the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

May 16, 2006