

Motion

July 13, 1998

Re: One Year Property Tax Freeze

Whereas, implementation of Current Value Assessment has been marred with problems resulting in:

- i. the creation and implementation of additional CVA legislation by the Province
- ii. a delay in returning the assessment rolls to the municipalities
- iii. a staggering number of assessment appeals, and;

Whereas, efforts by large numbers of provincial staff, municipal staff and outside consultants have failed to produce a fair, equitable and financially responsible model for a Current Value Assessment system in Toronto, and;

Whereas, the failure of these efforts to create a workable model for CVA in Toronto has caused the Provincial Government to engage in process of continuously changing and amending their CVA legislation in an attempt to reduce the tax burden on the hardest hit groups, such as small business, and;

Whereas, efforts to this end have only resulted in shifting these problems on to different groups of taxpayers, particularly homeowners, and;

Whereas, these problems and the unmanageable number of assessment appeals have forced the Province to delay the return of the revised assessment rolls to the municipalities, and;

Whereas, this delay has prevented the City of Toronto from setting tax rates and sending out tax bills based on the new assessments, and;

Whereas, the City of Toronto has thus far been collecting taxes based on the 1997 assessments and 1997 mill rate, and;

Whereas, 47, 563 residential properties in the City of Toronto face increases of over \$1000 dollars, and;

Whereas, the inability of Council to finalize the tax rate has prevented taxpayers from determining the actual amount of their final taxes and hence, from being able to accurately budget for the remaining portion of their tax bill which will be retroactive back to January 1, 1998 and include the full amount of their increase.

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. The City of Toronto delay the implementation of CVA until January 1, 1999.
2. That City Council direct that the final 1998 property tax bills be sent based on the 1997 assessment rolls at 1997 mill rates.
3. That City Council be prepared to defend this action if necessary before a court by providing empirical evidence respecting the improper and incompetent way the assessment was conducted including seeking a declaration that the said application of assessments is in contravention of the law.