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NOTICE OF MOTION
TORONTO CITY COUNCIL
July 25-27, 2006

Re: Establishment of *Property Assessment Reform Task-Force (PART)*

Moved by: Councillor Michael Walker

Seconded by: Councillor Karen Stintz

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Province of Ontario imposed the unfair system of Current Value Assessment (CVA) on all City of Toronto properties; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Current Value Assessment has produced steady and steep reassessment and tax increases in nearly half of all City Wards in the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS, a basic principle of any tax system, especially a municipal tax system, is that it be fair, logical, predictable and stable; and

WHEREAS, municipal property tax should relate more to municipal services consumed than to the market desirability of the assessed property's location; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, residents are paying more taxes and receiving less service; and

WHEREAS, it is City Council's basic and moral responsibility to calculate taxes fairly; and

WHEREAS, there has been a near total lack of focus on this issue here at City Hall for the last seven years while the volatility and unfairness of CVA continues unchecked; and

WHEREAS, City Council needs to effectively communicate to the Province the need and desire to control its system of property tax assessment in order to have autonomy over its most fundamental revenue tool;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Ombudsman's scathing criticism of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) offers both the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario a renewed opportunity to reform the present volatile and malignant municipal tax system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council immediately establish in accordance to the terms of reference appended to this motion, a "Property Assessment Reform Task-Force (acronym = PART)" to deal with reform of the property assessment system by investigating other property assessment systems in use in other provinces and other countries to create new options for property assessment systems that may be used by the City of Toronto to collect municipal property taxes in a more fair, equitable, predictable and affordable manner, and that such Task-Force will lobby the provincial government for Property Tax Assessment Reform, and that the attached terms of reference be approved.