

ST. PAUL'S, COUNCILLOR
Toronto City Hall, 2nd Floor, Suite B26
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

TEL: (416) 392-7906
Fax: (416) 392-0124
councillor_walker@toronto.ca
www.michaelwalker.ca

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NOTICE OF MOTION
TORONTO CITY COUNCIL

Re: Two-Year Moratorium on Property Assessment

Moved by: Councillor Michael Walker

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Thompson

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2006, Ontario's Ombudsman, Andre Marin, released a damning report on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) condemning the lack of transparency of its property assessment process, the lack of integrity and the inefficiency of decision-making at MPAC, as well as MPAC's disregard for properly recording reductions in assessment after successful appeals; and

WHEREAS, many Torontonians have complained about MPAC and the effects of current value assessment – most vocally since 2001; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair to Toronto's homeowners for the provincial government to continue with a broken system administered by a sick corporation of which Ombudsman Marin states, "...the credibility of MPAC's evaluation process simply cannot be restored without altering how it operates on a day-to-day basis and changing key aspects of its corporate culture"; and

WHEREAS, MPAC (and its predecessor OPAC) has been assessing property in this manner the last 8 years, thereby producing 8 years of questionable property assessments in the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2006, Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli called on the provincial government to impose a two-year moratorium on property assessment while it completes a review of the assessment system; and

WHEREAS, Toronto has experienced the same problems with MPAC as Ottawa, maybe worse;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council petition the provincial government to immediately impose a 2-year moratorium on property assessment in Ontario, most particularly Toronto.