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**TO: Clerk, City of Toronto**

**FROM: Councillor Michael Walker and Supportive City Councillors**

**RE: Urgent Meeting of City Council**

We the undersigned, Toronto City Councillors, with decades of public experience among us, urgently request a special meeting of City Council to:

- 1. Request the Province of Ontario to legislate all striking City of Toronto employees back to work and to mandate that arbitration proceed using the “final offer selection” approach to arbitration; and,**
- 2. Request the Province of Ontario to legislatively mandate that municipal services such as garbage collection, the operation of water and sewage treatment systems, and Emergency Measure Services, et cetera, be deemed an essential service under the appropriate provincial labour-relations laws.**

This meeting of City Council needs to occur now. As we are now in the fourth week of this strike action, issues of public health, public hardship and public safety are drawing closer to the forefront and the patience of impacted residents is being eroded. Residents and strikers, in our opinion, want this strike to end. Some residents, such as parents who depend on City-run daycare or day-camp services, urgently need this strike to end before it impacts the stability of their own employment. Toronto's loss in economic activity, including tourism, is also becoming clearer each day the strike continues: Torontonians are losing millions of dollars due to this protracted strike action, and we do not think there is an end to this strike in the foreseeable future.

We, therefore, request a special meeting of City Council to discuss the two important issues noted above.

*- the undersigned -*