

MOTION – August 9, 2022**Moved by: Councillor Parrish**

Whereas the details of the proposed “strong mayor” legislation have not yet been provided;

Whereas on its face the proposal appears to alter the functioning of municipal councils without any consultation with those councils or the public;

Whereas for mayors to be able to impose directives on budget or other significant matters rather than spend time to enlist the support of a majority of colleagues on any issue, is not in keeping with the directly democratic functioning of a city council;

Whereas to site housing as a rationale for such change is at best weak, as housing applications go through a lengthy process laid out in the Municipal Planning Act, which is solely the prerogative of the Province;

Whereas when developments are held up or refused by councils based on that Act, the provincially controlled Ontario Land Tribunal can issue unappealable decisions to overturn council decisions;

Whereas municipalities actually require other forms of reform such as more independent powers to raise funds such as those provided in the City of Toronto Act, lessening the burden of building and maintaining city infrastructure on property taxes - which are regressive - and onto more progressive sources of revenue;

Whereas the “strong mayor” policy, if extended to cities other than Toronto and Ottawa, will require a review of regional government from an ultimate leadership perspective;

Whereas a “strong mayor” governance model could attract partisan politics into local government;

Whereas while some Toronto Councillors have known partisan “leanings” other provinces such Quebec have the candidates’ party affiliations printed on ballots, jeopardizing the independence from partisan politics currently the norm in Ontario municipal politics;

Whereas today non-partisan municipal councillors are free to listen to debates and represent the needs of their specific communities without partisan policy restraints, change positions and decide issues often by consensus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Council of the City of Mississauga consider the proposal for “strong mayor” legislative change and forward concerns and conclusions to the Province, local MPPs and all municipal associations to which the City belongs.

