

**Date:** 2020-10-02

**Subject:** Past Council Resolutions with respect to Government Relations Matters

**Contact:** Peter Fay, City Clerk, Legislative Services, peter.fay@brampton.ca

**Report Number:** Legislative Services-2020-231

**Recommendations:**

That the staff report titled: Past Council Resolutions with respect to Government Relations Matters, to the Committee of Council Meeting of October 21, 2020, be received.

**Overview:**

- **At its September 30, 2020 meeting, City Council requested a report regarding previous resolutions regarding the “Government Relations Matters” section on meeting agendas.**
- **This report provides information in response to Council’s request.**

**Background:**

At its September 30, 2020 meeting, City Council adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution C360-2020

That the following be adopted:

That future Government Relations Matters updates provide highlights of Regional activities, rather than in-depth analysis of Regional agendas.

That the City Clerk be requested to research past resolutions with respect to Government Relations Matters and report thereon to the September 30, 2020 meeting of City Council.

This report provides information on past resolutions of Council with respect to “Government Relations Matters.”

**Current Situation:**

Government relations and inter-governmental affairs have been discussed at City Council and its standing committees on a regular basis over the last two terms of City Council.

A summary of Council's consideration of the "Government Relations Matters" section follows:

Prior to 2014-2018 Term of Council:

Prior to the 2014-2018 term of Council, inter-governmental affairs matters, primarily in the form of Regional Council meeting agenda reviews, took the form of a regular review coordination led by the Intergovernmental Affairs position within the CAO's Office, and presented to the Regional Councillors in the form of a briefing note and occasionally meeting with some Regional Councillors after a Wednesday City Council or Committee of Council meeting and before the scheduled Thursday meeting of Regional Council or its various committees.

In June 2014, City Council adopted a resolution to request the establishment of a Government Relations Committee for the 2014-2018 terms of Council.

Resolution C165-2014 (Recommendation CW201-2014)

1. That the presentation by D. Reader, Government Relations, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, to the Committee of Council Meeting of May 28, 2014, re: **Government Relations and Public Policy Program** (File H55) be received; and,
2. That the report from D. Reader, Government Relations, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, dated May 20, 2014, to the Committee of Council Meeting of May 28, 2014, re: [Government Relations and Public Policy Program](#) (File H55) be received; and,
3. That staff be directed to create a Government Relations and Public Policy Office with any additional resource requirements to be presented to Budget Committee for approval in the 2015 Budget and that Deborah Reader be appointed to the position of Government Relations and Public Policy Office Leader for the new office; and,
4. That staff be directed to develop a terms of reference for a Government Relations Committee of Council, subject to Council approval of the new committee structure following the 2014 municipal election.

2014-2018 Term of Council:

In December 2014, at the time City Council was establishing its governance structure, City staff recommended the establishment of a Government Relations Committee, with the following terms of reference:

Government Relations Committee

The Government Relations Committee, as recommended by the previous term of Council, will provide opportunities to advocate on City priorities through advocacy and discussions with other levels of government, including Regional, Provincial and Federal representatives.

The Committee will:

- approve a government relations annual work plan and advocacy strategies for City's priorities
- provide opportunities to advocate on City priorities including meetings with:
- appropriate government officials and politicians

- regular round table discussions with local MPPs and MPs • ongoing engagement in the community (town halls, policy roundtables)
- provide opportunities to advance city priorities with:
- written submissions and position papers on legislation
- delegations to standing committees and agency forums
- funding and other revenue stream opportunities
- press releases and earned media
- receive regular updates and briefings on emerging issues, policy analysis and advocacy effort progress

This committee will meet quarterly and include all ten Members

Council approved the establishment of the Committee, subject to a Council Workshop held later in December 2014, but subsequently passed a resolution to delete the establishment of the Government Relations Committee:

Resolution C326-2014

B. That staff recommendation 2 (b) in Agenda Item D 1 be amended to delete part (iii) as follows:

“iii Government Relations Committee” as well as the corresponding terms of reference in Appendix 1 to the staff report

In its place, Council agreed to include a standing item on City Council and Committee of Council meeting agendas to discuss “Regional Council Business.” Throughout 2015 and 2016, a staff overview was presented on each meeting agenda, generally near the end of a meeting agenda, providing information on items of interest to City Council on the upcoming Regional Council meeting agenda.

In November 2016, Council received a report from the CAO’s Office to establish a government relations framework to build strong federal-provincial-municipal partnerships for the City. Therein, weekly updates at City Council or Committee of Council meetings transitioned from a “Regional Council Business” standing item to a broader “Government Relations Matters” standing agenda item and included updates on all inter-governmental matters of significance to the City.

Resolution C341-2016 (Recommendation CS154-2016)

That the report from L. Rubin-Vaughan, Government Relations, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, dated October 26, 2016, to the Corporate Services Committee Meeting of November 16, 2016, re: [2016 Government Relations Framework: Building a Strong Federal-Provincial-Municipal Partnership for Brampton](#), be received.

### 2018-2022 Term of Council:

Through the current term of Council, the continuation of the “Government Relations Matters” agenda section has been included on City Council and Committee of Council meetings agendas. This regular update was also used as a mechanism to bring forward staff recommendations/responses to a high volume of provincial consultations, legislation and regulations throughout 2019 and 2020.

In April 2019, Council adopted a resolution to move up the “Government Relation Matters” section to near the start of the meeting agenda from the end of the agenda.

Resolution C134-2019 (Recommendation CW189-2019)

That the “Government Relations Matters” agenda section be repositioned to precede the “Delegations” section, on both City Council and Committee of Council agendas.

In late 2019, the Corporate Projects, Policy and Liaison Division within the CAO’s Office was established, and as a result Government Relations presentations for almost a year have been conducted by the Division Director, Gurdeep Kaur. As of September 2020, the Senior Manager, Public Affairs, has been leading the presentations at Council and Committee meetings, as the management lead for all issues related to Public Affairs inclusive of government relations.

In April 2020, Council adopted a further resolution to confirm the continuation of a “Government Relations Matters” update at meetings:

Resolution C117-2020

WHEREAS an effective government relations strategy is key to the City of Brampton;

WHEREAS it is important for Council to be informed on matters relating to all levels of Government to be able to make informed decisions;

THEREFORE be it resolved that moving forward staff present a report on Government Relations Matters at each Council meeting.

**Corporate Implications:**

Financial Implications: nil

Other Implications: nil

**Term of Council Priorities:**

This report achieves the Term of Council priority of a Well-Run City by supporting Collaboration and Advocacy to continue to build the City’s government relations, advocacy capacity and impact, and enabling a Council governance framework responsive to the priorities established by Council to facilitate effective Council decision-making.

**Conclusion:**

This report provides information regarding Council resolutions pertaining to establishing the “Government Relations Matters” section on Council and Committee meeting agendas.

Authored by:

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Reviewed, Approved and Submitted by:

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