



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
CORPORATE SERVICES - Council Services**

51/9906
51/8821
Item No.
CITY OF WINDSOR
COUNCIL SERVICES

MAY 09 2008

MISSION STATEMENT:

"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"

RECEIVED

LiveLink REPORT #: 13495	Report Date: May 9, 2008
Author's Name: Steve Vlachodimos	Date to Council: May 12, 2008
Author's Phone: 519 255-6222 ext. 6488	Classification #:
Author's E-mail: svlachodimos@city.windsor.on.ca	

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

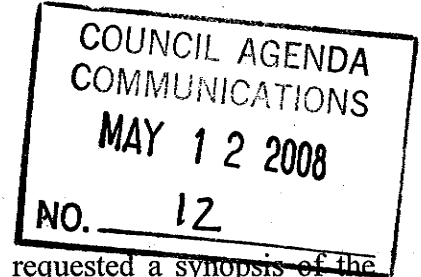
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION - Chronology of recent requests submitted to Members of Provincial Parliament

1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: Ward(s): _____

That the report of the City Clerk dated May 9, 2008 outlining the "Chronology of recent requests submitted to Members of Provincial Parliament" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable.



2. BACKGROUND:

At the April 28, 2008 meeting of Council, Councillor Valentinis requested a synopsis of the various requests submitted to the local Members of Provincial Parliament, including requests for meetings.

3. DISCUSSION:

The following chronology is provided to Council for information purposes:

1. Monday, December 10, 2007 – a letter is mailed out to Ministers Duncan and Papatello, authored by the Deputy Clerk, as per M293-2007 requesting a meeting with local Members of Provincial Parliament for the purpose of engaging in discussion with regards to the GreenLink proposal for the border.

2. Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – Minister Papatello's Office asks that the December 10, 2007 letter be re-faxed to the Minister's Toronto office.

3. Thursday, January 10, 2008 – Deputy Clerk asks a member of the Council Services Team to contact Minister Duncan’s office to inquire as to the status of the meeting request. That same day, Jenna Martin, EA, Constituency Affairs for Minister Duncan responds via email as follows:

“There is a scheduling meeting this Friday afternoon in Toronto. This request will be addressed at that meeting. I will keep you posted or you will hear from Michelle. Hope this helps. Jenna”.

4. Friday, January 11, 2008 – Deputy Clerk spoke with an Assistant by the name of Erin in Minister Pupatello’s local office, who advised that the Minister is available to meet with Council on 2 dates as follows:

- a) Tuesday, January 22, 2008 – any time except between 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon; or
- b) Wednesday, January 23, 2008 – any time

The assistant also indicated to the Deputy Clerk that, while they preferred to have Minister Duncan attend along with Minister Pupatello, it was not possible, as Minister Duncan is traveling the province for pre-budget consultations, and that they will be in touch.

5. Tuesday, January 15, 2008 – The proposed meeting dates are discussed at the City’s Agenda-Setting Review, and a meeting notice is issued to Council, scheduling the in camera meeting for Tuesday, January 22, 2008 from 12:15 to 2:00 p.m. in the Walkerville Room.

6. Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 4:00 pm. – Deputy Clerk receives a phone call from Erin in Minister Pupatello’s office, advising that the Minister just found out that the Ministry has extended her trip to Germany, and that the Minister will not be available on January 22, 2008. The Minister further requests to meet with Council on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 12 noon.

7. Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – Upon confirmation, a revised meeting notice is issued to City Council, confirming that the meeting with Minister Pupatello is now scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Walkerville Room, City Hall.

8. Friday, January 18, 2008 – 9:45 a.m. – Deputy Clerk receives a telephone call from Erin in Minister Pupatello’s local office, advising that the meeting with Minister Pupatello needs to once again be rescheduled, as they have been asked to accommodate Minister Duncan, who now wishes to attend, along with Minister Pupatello, and that they will advise once they can coordinate a meeting date. Erin re-iterated that Minister Duncan is traveling for pre-budget consultations and that they will advise once a date has been set. Erin also mentioned that the Ministers are willing to “listen” to the GreenLink proposal by Council, but that they would not be able to comment on this, until GreenLink has been fully reviewed by the Environmental Assessment process. Deputy Clerk asked if he should follow up with either her office or Minister Duncan’s office, and Erin said no...that the 2 offices were working together, and that they would be in touch with the City of Windsor as soon as they had anything new to offer.

9. Friday, January 18, 2008 – a notice is sent to Council advising that the meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008 has been cancelled, and that we were awaiting new dates from the Ministers offices.

10. January 23, 2008 – Mayor Francis sends a letter to the Ministers in response to their invitation to him to meet on Saturday, January 26, 2008 to discuss DRIC and border-related matters. In the Mayor's response to the ministers, the mayor reiterates "...most recently, City Council requested a meeting with both of you to discuss the DRIC process and GreenLink, our response to the August 2007 DRIC proposal. We were advised that scheduling conflicts prevented both of you from confirming a date at which time you could meet with Council together. Since you will both be available this Saturday, on behalf of Council, I ask that we arrange a meeting with the two of you, for this Saturday, January 26, 2008, immediately preceding or following the 10:00 a.m. meeting scheduled at the Fogolar Furlan".

11. Tuesday, February 5, 2008 – At the direction of City Council, Deputy Clerk issues a letter of request to the ministers advising that Windsor City Council has scheduled a meeting for Saturday, February 9, 2008 commencing at 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon at City Hall, respecting the border issue, and that the 2 members are invited to attend any portion of that meeting, to discuss the DRIC process and Greenlink.

12. Thursday, February 7, 2008 – the Ministers send a letter of response to the Deputy Clerk advising it would be inappropriate for the ministers to comment on specifics of any proposal for a new border access road, including GreenLink, before a final recommendation is selected by the DRIC Study, as it would be seen as an attempt to interfere with, or influence the process, which is contrary to the Members' Integrity Act. They further state that they are "committed to meeting with all local Councils impacted by the border solution, at a date to be determined following the release of the DRIC recommendations this spring".

13. February 14, 2008 - Deputy Clerk sends a letter to Ministers Duncan and Papatello advising of Council Question 25-2008, respecting the Members Integrity Act:

CQ25-2008

Asks that in light of the letter received from Ministers Duncan and Papatello, I have some questions I would like documented and sent back to our Ministers for a response. The letter makes mention of the Members Integrity Act.

1. Asks if our Ministers have any input into the terms of reference for the DRIC process and if so, what were some of the features they incorporated to ensure the likelihood that quality of life concerns that have been expressed by Windsor residents will be taken 'seriously'.

2. Also asks, as it relates to the Members Integrity Act, could Minister Duncan's comments in the media be viewed as influencing the DRIC process.

3. Also asks if our Ministers have had any discussions with DRIC that could also be seen as influencing the outcome. Also asks at what point will we see them publicly advocate for this community that takes into consideration the residents of this city.

ST/8821 (February 11, 2008)

To date, no response has been received with regards to this Council Question.

14. February 22, 2008 – at the direction of City Council, letters are sent to the Ministers advising that Council has requested the following:

'That letters be sent to Ministers Papatello and Duncan requesting a meeting with Council members regarding the DRIC process, the amount of funds and how they've been disbursed with respect to 'Let's Get Windsor Moving/Border Infrastructure funds', and also to discuss other issues of concern to the municipality such as COMRIF funding, and other community issues'.

To date, no response has been received with regards to this request.

15. During statement periods at the March 31, 2008 and April 14, 2008 meetings of Council, questions were raised as to the status of the February 22nd letter. The City Clerk advised that no responses have been received to Council's request.

16. April 15, 2008 – Deputy Clerk sends another letter to the Ministers reminding them that we have not received a response to the February 22, 2008 letter, requesting a meeting “regarding the DRIC process, the amount of funds and how they’ve been disbursed with respect to ‘Let’s Get Windsor Moving / Border Infrastructure Funds’, and also to discuss other issues of concern to the municipality such as COMRIF funding and other community issues”.

To date, no response to this reminder letter has been received by the Clerk's office.

17. May 7, 2008 - Deputy Clerk sent a letter by fax and regular mail to the Ministers and DRIC officials advising of Council Question 50-2008, which was recorded at the May 5, 2008 meeting of Council:

CQ50-2008

Prior to last Thursday's meeting/announcement, meetings took place between DRIC and Ministry officials and groups and municipal officials in Essex County, yet the City of Windsor was notified of the announcement less than 24 hours before. Asks what meetings took place, when, with whom and what other issues and deals were discussed. Can we submit this question to DRIC and our elected provincial representatives.

The Clerk's office continues to await a response to the February 14, 2008, February 22, 2008, April 15, 2008, and May 7, 2008 letters sent to the Ministers.

In addition, the Clerk is maintaining a running list of items that Council wishes to discuss with the Ministers once a meeting is scheduled and an agenda for a meeting has been formulated:

1. DRIC process
2. Amount of funds and how they've been disbursed with respect to 'Let's Get Windsor Moving/ Border Infrastructure Funds'
3. Tree Preservation in terms of a border solution/route
4. Other community issues such as:
 - multi-residential rates;
 - infrastructure deficit in Windsor
 - COMRIF Funding
 - Other

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

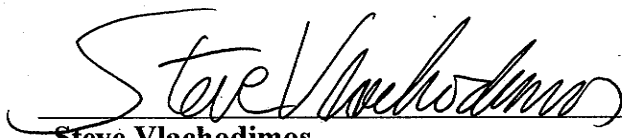
Not applicable.

5. CONSULTATIONS:

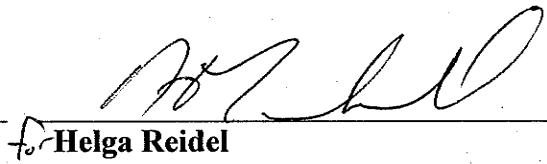
Not applicable.

6. CONCLUSION:

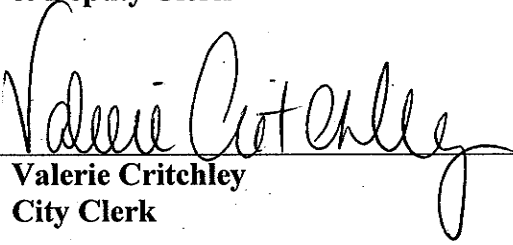
The Clerk's office will advise City Council once responses are received from the Ministers, as outlined in this report.



Steve Vlachodimos
Manager of Council/Committee Services
& Deputy Clerk



Helga Reidel
General Manager – Corporate Services



Valerie Critchley
City Clerk

SV

APPENDICES:

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:
Name:
Phone #: 519 ext.

NOTIFICATION :				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX