

Treat All Employees of City of Toronto Fairly and Equally, Insists Responsible Government Group

Council should not vote on non-union employee pay freeze until Mayor Miller demands - and achieves - the same from unions

April 28, 2009 (Toronto, ON) In the interest of treating all City of Toronto employees fairly and equally, the Responsible Government Group is requesting that City Council defer voting on the non-union compensation item until Mayor Miller has completed his negotiations with unionized City employees. The pay freeze for non-union staff is a key item on tomorrow's City Council agenda.

"We have advocated all along that we must freeze labour costs in 2009 to help get our spending under control," said Councillor Cesar Palacio. "But we have also been clear that we are all in this together and that everyone should have their pay frozen, not just one group of City employees," he said. "This issue also highlights the very disappointing situation that City Councillors did not have their salaries frozen and therefore we can not demonstrate that we are a part of the solution."

In an effort to lead by example, the Responsible Government Group attempted to freeze the salaries of all elected officials, but the Mayor's Executive Committee prevented the matter from going to vote at Council. During this same meeting however, the Committee unanimously voted to freeze the pay of non union employees.

"We do not know what deal the Mayor is attempting to strike with the unions, but the deal needs to be same for all City employees," said Councillor David Shiner, who is submitting the motion to defer the vote. "And we can only hope that the deal is more in touch with the times than the Mayor's refusal to freeze Councillors' salaries."

The Responsible Government Group notes that this matter is not just about effectively managing costs but it's also about standing up for a group of people that make things happen at City Hall.

"We owe it to these employees to insist that they are treated equally," said Councillor Frances Nunziata. "It is unfair to ask one group of employees to take a pay freeze, while leaving the other group untouched."

The Responsible Government Group is a coalition of City Councillors who are committed to a municipal government that best serves the residents of Toronto.

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For More Information:

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