



## **Council Member Motion**

**For the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting of February 12, 2015**

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**Date:** February 6, 2015

**From:** Councillors Alto and Loveday

**Subject:** Community Use of City Hall

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### **Background**

In many cities, City Hall acts not just as the seat of municipal government but as a community resource available to residents for use as a community space. Whether it be for meetings, events, weddings, information sessions, or other community activities, City Hall can be a wonderful location for community use.

Such use usually occurs only after city business is complete, so 'first use' is always booked for staff and council activities. Staff and Council use, though, leaves most evenings and many daytimes open for community use. Such use comes with a cost to the City, that being fees for extra maintenance and for security services, when such use occurs outside regular business hours, and additional staff time to provide scheduling services (or to establish an online space booking application).

Allowing community use opens up City Hall in the spirit of 'open government', allows the opportunity for individuals to see their City Hall as a community resource, provides the chance for residents to 'take ownership' of their City Hall, enables people to experience and learn more about City Hall, and makes more use of an under-utilized facility.

### **Recommendation**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff provide recommendations to Council for a policy to enable and oversee community use of City Hall by local not-for-profit organizations and residents, outside times when City Hall is in use for municipal business.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Alto".

Councillor Marianne Alto

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Loveday".

Councillor Jeremy Loveday