



October 21, 2020

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional City Clerk
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Ann-Marie:

Re: Council resolution regarding Double Direct Councillors

Please be advised that City Council at its meeting of October 6, 2020 passed the following motion:

That Council request that the Region of Niagara adopt a resolution to allow the City of Niagara Falls to change its method of electing City and Regional Councillors to the "Double-Direct Method," where three members of Council will serve on both Regional and City Council, while five members of Council would serve only on City Council; and to inform the lower tier Council's that have Regional Councillor representation of Niagara Falls' City Council's actions in hopes of encouraging other municipalities to consider the double-direct method where applicable.

Background

The Region has the power to design Council composition. The power to change Council composition includes the method of selecting members, including double direct elections.

Prior to the 2018 Municipal Elections, the *Municipal Act* required a Minister's regulation be passed in order to implement a double direct method of voting. Recent changes to the *Municipal Act* no longer require this step and it is now up to the Region and our fellow lower tier municipalities to affect this change.

It is then hopeful that the Region would give notice of intent to pass a by-law to change its composition and holds at least one public meeting. If this bylaw then passes at the Region, the lower tier municipalities would then be asked to pass resolutions consenting to the change.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Matson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bill Matson
City Clerk

c. *Local Area Municipal Clerks*