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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Municipal Candidates State Positions on Openness & Transparency**

In a survey of Hamilton Municipal Council Candidates conducted by Freedom-of-Information activist George Geczy, an overwhelming majority of respondents support changes to current City policies to help promote greater disclosure and transparency.

The survey asked two specific questions – the first asking if the Candidate would “support a more open City purchasing policy, that would include full public disclosure of all winning bids and purchase contract details”; the second question asking if the Candidate would support greater openness in City meetings, in particular supporting an “open-meetings law” as called for by the Provincial Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ann Cavoukian.

Responses were received from 21 candidates, including 4 incumbents. All 21 responding Candidates supported the concept of a new “open-meetings” law and greater transparency in City meetings. 20 of the 21 respondents also supported changes to City purchasing policy, allowing for greater public disclosure of purchasing contracts and winning bids.

“Both incumbent and new candidates see a clear need for a change of policies in the area of purchasing and meetings,” noted Mr. Geczy. “I was very pleased to see a desire to take action on these issues, and not to accept the status quo or rely on the decisions of City managers.”

Full results of the survey, including a copy of the questionnaire and background information sent to Candidates, is on the internet at:

[www.foi.dgtechnical.com](http://www.foi.dgtechnical.com)

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- 30 -

*George Geczy is a resident of Ancaster, a software developer and independent businessman; he is also co-chair of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Science & Technology Committee, is a Trustee of the Hamilton Public Library Board, and is a Board member of the Hamilton CommunityNet. However, all opinions expressed here are his own, and may not reflect those of any organization he is involved with.*