

To: Municipal Candidates 2003

A number of news reports and articles have commented upon the City of Hamilton's policies towards transparency and openness, especially in the areas of purchasing and financial decision-making.

I myself have written articles on the topic (ie *Hamilton Spectator*, Dec 3, 2002, et al) that have encouraged greater transparency in City purchasing policies, yet few changes have been forthcoming.

Recent releases and articles by Ann Cavoukian, Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner (ie "A case for greater openness", Oct 14, 2003, *Toronto Star*, *Brabant News*, et al) have also stressed "the need to improve integrity and transparency in public administration".

In light of these efforts I am compiling for publication the position of Municipal Candidates on these issues. I have also attached a background information document in case you are not aware of the issues or the arguments for greater transparency.

Could you please complete the enclosed Candidate's questionnaire and return the answers by fax or email as indicated.

All answers will, of course, be published for public inspection before the Municipal election. Please make sure to return your response on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, and if you should have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

*George Geczy.*

## Issue: City Government Openness & Transparency

Do you support a more open City purchasing policy, that would include full public disclosure of all winning bids and purchase contract details?

- ☐ Yes, I would fully support such a policy
- ☐ I would need more details, but I support the idea
- ☐ I would leave the decision up to City staff and managers
- ☐ I do not see a need to change current City policy on this
- ☐ I have no opinion on this topic at the present time
- ☐ Other:

Do you agree with the comments by Information and Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian that there is a "need to improve integrity and transparency in public administration". In particular, are you willing to support her recommendation that Municipal Councils should call upon the Province "to enact a new and comprehensive open-meetings law"?

- ☐ Yes, I would fully support such an initiative
- ☐ I would need more details, but I support the idea
- ☐ I do not see a need to change current City policies in this area
- ☐ I have no opinion on this topic at the present time
- ☐ Other:

**CANDIDATE NAME & WARD:**

*Please forward your responses by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003, to:*

George Geczy, c/o dg technical consulting

By either:

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Email to:	<a href="mailto:george@dgtechnical.com">george@dgtechnical.com</a>