



**City of Rochester Hills  
AGENDA SUMMARY  
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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**Legislative File No:** 2006-0802

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Jim Rosen, City Council President  
**DATE:** November 3, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** Communication Committees

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There has been much informal discussion regarding Council Member's frustration with the Council Communication Committees. To many, it seems like the full Council re-hashes everything every time, and it is time consuming and bothersome.

The Communication Committees were originally intended to improve communication between Council and the Administration. That is: to provide a mechanism for up to 3 Council Members to understand an issue well enough to communicate back to the whole Council where the Administration was coming from as well as communicate to the Administration where the Council was coming from. When residents were appointed to the Communication Committees it broadened the representation.

In hindsight, it now appears the Communication Committees are not fulfilling their purpose. In general each of the Committees handled a wide range of issues and diverse topics within its general area. By contrast, the "Administrative Technical Committees" and other "Council created" committees do seem to work relatively well. Examples are the CIP Committee and the MLUP Committee.

Ms Holder and I have been meeting with Ms. Galeczka about the Committee structure. In addition, Ms. Galeczka has been meeting with the Clerk's Staff about the Committee structure. We have all been discussing the Communications Committee's structure and ways to improve there functioning. While we are not yet ready to propose a specific set of changes, we are ready to have a thorough discussion with all of Council to share our ideas and to get Council's reaction and feedback. We are working on a presentation and will have it ready for the Work Session on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We are providing the background material we have so far.

Based on the discussion, if changes are desired we believe we can have a formal proposal at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and adoption at the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Both would be in time for Committee selection in December.

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**NEXT AGENDA ITEM**

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

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