



Refer to: Mr. M. Mothekhe
Reference/ File No: 4/4/1
Telephone Ext: 051 405 8543
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**THE SPEAKER
COUNCIL ITEM**

ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL WHIP

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is two two-fold, firstly to appraise the Municipality Council on the responsibilities and functions of the Council Whip and secondly to request the Council to elect one member to serve on a full -time basis as the Metropolitan Council Whip for the term of office.

2) BACKGROUND

The position of Council Whip is designed by a Members of the Executive Council (MEC) of a province by proclamation in the government gazette and further determines full time or part time provision. Since the 2006 MMM council term, the position of a Council Whip was created and subsequently determined to be full-time. The office of the Council Whip is a fully fledged structure with a small component of staff. As a rule, and practice, if a political party attains a threshold of twelve (12) council seats, it will appoint a party-political assistant to its councillors. Party political assistants are structurally administratively a component in the office of the Council Whip.

The office of the Council Whip is not an appendage or extension of the office of the Speaker, It's a stand-alone and independent office with its own budgetary provision and office resources. For the fact that the Council Whip is not a statutory office bearer, a clear distinction is made between a Chief Whip and Council Whip. The Chief Whip is a position found in the statutes of both the National and Provincial legislatures, and in order to create a distinction, a determination and creation of a position of Council Whip is made to clear the synonymity, however with some form or level of similarity, although at a municipal level. Consequently, the role of the Council Whip strengthens and optimizes qualitative Council contributions and inputs, and in a way mitigates disruptions, incongruence, delays regarding decision-making and political party walkouts.

The glue that binds interaction and harmony between parties is the multi-party whippery and it is the responsibility of the Council Whip to ensure that this platform is maximized and meets periodically. An effective or efficient multi-party whippery gravitates and replicates to positive and fruitful Council meetings.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL WHIP

Responsibilities	Reporting Frequency
Coordinating and convening multi-party Whips Forum prior to Council meetings	At each Council meetings
Calling for Caucuses prior or during meetings of Council or Committee meetings	As and when required
Coordination, review and validation for party representation for Council Committees	Annually
Maintenance of discipline amongst councillors	Quality
Providing administrative and support to political parties, with regards to staffing.	As and when required
Liaising with parties regarding speakers at council sittings	As and when required
Coordinating the troika or triumvirate sessions between the Executive Mayor, Speaker and City Manager	As and when required

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hereby recommended that the Metropolitan Council elect one councillor, to serve as the Council Whip on a full-time basis.


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ACTING CITY MANAGER
MR. SELLO MORE