

Electronic Recording of Closed Session Meetings

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WHEREAS since January 1st 2008, citizens of Ontario have had the right to request that the Ontario Ombudsman investigate closed municipal meetings that they believe may have contravened The Municipal Act 2001 or municipal procedural bylaws; and

WHEREAS the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman has recommended that municipalities electronically record closed meetings; and

WHEREAS electronic records are more complete, definitive and less subject to dispute than written minutes and/or spoken recollections; and

WHEREAS in the event of a complaint or request to investigate a closed meeting, the availability of an electronic record would provide an accessible and complete account of the meeting, reduce the time, expense and number of interviews needed to conduct the investigation, and lead to faster decisions, recommendations and complaint resolutions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective March 1, 2015, all closed sessions of Meetings of Sault Ste. Marie City Council shall be recorded using digital audio-video recording technology and that the City Clerk's department shall be made responsible for the care and retention of the resulting records.