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E. T. Gilbert
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August 25, 2006

Josephine Bryant, City Librarian
Toronto Library Board

Dear Ms. Bryant:

Thank you for your letter of August 16.

I would point out to you that in my letter of July 17, to the Board Chairman (I was surprised to get the reply from you) nowhere did I suggest that a change be made to the motion contained in the letter from the Chairman of July 10. I am not a member of the board. It is not within my bailiwick. In fact I made no suggestions at all.

I asked that a statement from me be placed on record in the minutes. This is a polite way of saying "please put them on the record" in accordance with accepted Parliamentary Practice. I understand the Board is governed by the protocols of the Legislature in such matters. I have attended many meetings in my time as an active unionist and have yet to hear a request to place a relevant item in the record denied. In short: it is a part of the Democratic process.

I have made enquiries at Queen's Park and find that the Speaker's Office produces the minutes of the Legislature. They are usually in quite an abbreviated form. The difference is that there is an official copy of Hansard to record every word spoken -- accurately -- within the chamber during a debate. In other words it would be redundant to write extensively in the Speaker's minutes. I do not have that safeguard. And I don't expect to be quoted verbatim.

I do, however, expect that a report outlining truthfully the main points, the essence if you like, of what I said before the board be placed in the record.

The few lines contained in quotes in my letter of July 17 to the Board Chairman states unambiguously what the gist of my presentation was about. Now if it means that it goes as an appendix, a rider, a codicil, it does not matter to me. I just want it on record. The motion (which seems to be able to be changed at will) is not something I can do anything about nor would presume to do so.

I regret to say I am given to think that you are unwilling (not unable) to act on my request. Being that the purpose of taking minutes is to accurately record what took place for referral at a later date, I would like you to reconsider this decision of yours in the light of what I have had to say here.

If you find you cannot do so then I shall be asking permission to face the Board at its September 18 meeting to present the points I have outlined..

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. T. Gilbert", written in dark ink.

E. T. Gilbert

Cc: Mayor David Miller; Councillor Rob Ford.