

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 23, 2013
FROM:	CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK
SUBJECT	CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, this report BE RECEIVED for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Agenda Item #28 – Board of Control – June 9, 2010

Agenda Item #17 – Finance and Administration Committee – July 20, 2011

BACKGROUND

Municipal Council, at its session held on July 25, 2011, resolved that "...the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to have available, at the City Clerk's Office service counter, a list of local businesses which provide civil marriage ceremonies; it being understood that the list will be compiled, regularly updated and provided to the City Clerk by Mr. Prevett of Kettle Creek Weddings, and that the City is not assuming responsibility for the completeness or currency of the list."

Ontario Marriage License Issuers, which includes the City of London's City Clerk's Office, received the attached communication dated May 31, 2013, from the Director and Deputy Registrar General for the Province of Ontario, regarding a "Before You Get Married" notice from the Province of Ontario for couples getting married, as well as Service Ontario's list of religious officials authorized to perform legal marriages in Ontario. They have explicitly asked that "to assist in ensuring accurate information is provided to couples, ... [the City of London] remove reference to any lists of religious officials [it] may have on [its] municipal website and/or refrain from providing paper lists to couples." The City Clerk's Office has, therefore, ceased to provide a list of local businesses which provide marriage ceremonies. It will, however, provide couples getting married with the Province's notice "Before You Get Married", and also the link to the Province's webpage, which provides information on getting married, including a current list of religious officials authorized to perform legal marriages in Ontario.

This report is being provided to the Municipal Council in order to address any enquiries that may arise regarding the change to the process instituted by the Municipal Council in 2011.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
SARAH AXFORD MANAGER OF LICENSING AND ELECTIONS	CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK