

City considers lifting Facebook ban

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The City of Toronto will consider lifting a ban on Facebook. (QMI Agency files)

TORONTO - City of Toronto employees might “like” this.

Councillors on the government management committee will consider lifting an employee ban on the use of Facebook next week.

Committee chairman Paul Ainslie will call on city bureaucrats to report on the possibility of allowing access to Facebook through Toronto’s network firewall.

“I guess we put a ban on it with city staff, I guess (former mayor David Miller) did it,” Ainslie said. “I’ve just heard a lot of complaints about it ... employees saying, ‘Why can’t we access it?’”

“It is not something that people are saying they would abuse.”

Ainslie wants a policy imposed to ensure employees use the social networking site “appropriately.”

The policy should encourage staff to limit personal use of Facebook the same way they limit personal telephone calls or Internet usage, Ainslie argued.

“I think we’re all adults and everybody is supervised for their level of work,” he said. “I think if there is somebody that is abusing Facebook in the workplace, that is quickly going to stand out that they are not getting their work done.”

A city spokesman said the city’s current policy requires employees to obtain approval before using any social media for business purposes.