

St. Clair Avenue West Village Association Revitalization Project – (Ward 21-Davenport)

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted the following recommendation:

“It is recommended that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be instructed to work with the St. Clair West Village Association to achieve the realization of the Association’s streetscape objectives.”)

The Policy and Finance Committee reports having requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with any other appropriate staff, to submit a report directly to Council for its meeting scheduled to be held on November 23, 1999, respecting the following communication (November 8, 1999) from Dr. Judy Adler, Chairperson, St. Clair West Village Tree Lights Project, addressed to Councillor Betty Disero :

Concerned citizens from St. Clair Avenue West along with some business owners have formed the “St. Clair West Village Association”. The mandate of this group is to improve and invigorate St. Clair Avenue from Winona Avenue to Westmount Avenue. This stretch of St. Clair has been experiencing a decline in viable small businesses along with a steady increase in crime. We feel that this stretch of St. Clair is not representative of the diverse and vibrant nature of our community.

We represent a diverse multicultural mosaic representing nations from A to Z. Our community is involved in many projects including: neighbourhood gardens, Canada Day celebrations, restoration of historic buildings, murals, tree planting and many more. Our neighbourhood is striving to be more bilingual with many of our kids attending French Immersion programs. We are proud of our neighbourhood and would like to extend this ownership to include this stretch of our main street.

As our first project of re-vitalization we have chosen to install year-round tree lights along St. Clair from Winona Avenue to Westmount Avenue. We feel that this would give St. Clair Avenue a festive and appealing look. Residents will be more inclined to stroll along the street. Better lighting will discourage illicit activities and commerce will improve with the increased street traffic. As a result we will have a safer and friendlier neighbourhood.

Fund-raising has begun in the neighbourhood. Flyers are being distributed (a sample included) door to door asking for a \$20 donation from each household. There are at least 30 volunteers involved in the fund-raising. Each street has been divided amongst 3-5 residents responsible for collecting the donations. Fund-raising began in July 1999 and the project has met with much enthusiasm from all residents.

Businesses along this stretch of St. Clair Avenue have also been asked for a contribution of \$50.00 each. One of the storeowner’s is involved in raising money from the businesses. Currently we have \$3,000.00 in the “St. Clair West Village Association” account.

Because this is a joint neighbourhood and business effort, success in this project will ensure a mutual level of ownership on this stretch of the street. This is bound to have a lasting positive effect on our community and our business relation.

We have come to understand that if our project is to be successful we need help from other sources. At this time we are asking you to get the city involved in the installation of underground conduits. This will reduce our costs considerably and make the completion of this project attainable. Please help us take this project through the appropriate channels so that our community can become an economically more viable.

(A copy of the sample flyer referred to in the foregoing communication was forwarded to all Members of Council with the November 10, 1999, agenda of the Policy and Finance Committee and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk).

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following joint report (November 19, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from the St. Clair West Village Association to provide underground conduits on St. Clair Avenue West, between Winona Avenue and Westmount Avenue.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial impacts with respect to this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of November 10th, the Policy and Finance Committee had before it a request from the St. Clair West Village Association to install underground conduits on St. Clair Avenue West, between Winona Avenue and Westmount Avenue. The Policy and Finance Committee requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with any appropriate staff, to submit a report directly to City Council at its meeting of November 23, 1999 concerning this request.

Discussion

The sidewalks on St. Clair Avenue West, between Winona Avenue and Westmount Avenue were re-constructed in 1998 as part of the Canada Ontario Infrastructure Works Program by the former City of Toronto. At that time, decorative brick banding was incorporated in the sidewalk design and an underground conduit was installed on each side of the street within the area of reconstruction for future wiring needs.

It is difficult to ascertain the feasibility of and costs associated with the tree lighting initiative advanced by the St. Clair West Village Association at this time. City staff will work with the Association and continue to provide assistance in the realization of the association's streetscape objectives.

Conclusion

Underground conduits have been installed for future wiring needs, including tree lighting. Although at this time, there are no funds available to assist with the tree lighting initiative, City staff will continue to provide assistance to the Association where possible.

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