

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

Glenn DeBaeremaeker, Chair  
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee  
Toronto City Hall

**RE: "NO GRAFFITI" POLICY FOR NEWLY PLACED OR RELOCATED STREET FURNITURE**

Dear Glenn:

I am writing to request that staff report to an upcoming meeting of the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee on the feasibility of a City policy that would prohibit graffiti covered street furniture and public infrastructure from ever being placed on City streets or public places.

The attached picture illustrates why such a policy is badly needed. This salt box was placed at the request of my office at a prominent corner in Ward 17. Residents who had requested the box were quite dismayed to see it arrive already covered in graffiti, which is completely at odds with the "clean and beautiful" vision local residents have for our community, and residents in general have for Toronto.

The general principles of such a policy should be:

- No saltbox, bench, garbage can or other piece of street furniture should be allowed out of a Toronto Works Yard to be placed on City street if it has graffiti on it.
- No piece of street furniture or public works property may be moved or maintained without the graffiti being removed.
- Any additional privately owned street furniture, utility boxes or equipment, which are subject to City of Toronto Transportation's authorization to be placed on City owned right-of-way, should be subject to the same strict "no graffiti when installed" policy. This should include phone booths, A-frame signs, post-office boxes and newspaper boxes.

A similar, very well known policy was implemented in the New York City Subway system in the late 1980s with unprecedented success. No train was allowed to leave the yard in the morning with graffiti on it, (known as the "No graffiti will run" policy), which led to the virtual eradication of graffiti on all New York City subway trains. There is no reason why, if an aggressive approach like this is taken, graffiti on street furniture in Toronto cannot also become a thing of the past. I hope you and your Committee will support my request for a staff report on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Cesar Palacio  
Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 17 – Davenport  
c. Members of Toronto City Council