

Ref: 2008-MM23.17

July 23, 2008

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

City Council on July 15, 16 and 17, 2008, referred the following Motion to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee for consideration at its meeting on September 8, 2008:

MM23.17 Re-establishment of Laneway Commercial Collections on Bloor Street West, The Queensway, and Dundas Street West in Ward 5, Etobicoke Lakeshore

Moved by Councillor Milczyn, seconded by Councillor Grimes

SUMMARY:

Commencing July 1, 2008, Solid Waste Collections implemented changes to the commercial collection schedules (and above residential) on Bloor Street West, Dundas Street West and The Queensway in Ward 5. This involved a change to the dates of collection, as well as a more significant change to curbside collection rather than rear laneway collection.

The harmonization to curbside collection (from rear laneway), while it might serve some areas of the City of Toronto better, was not necessary nor desired by businesses in Ward 5. The new collection procedures are problematic and of grave concern to the local BIAs, businesses, and residents in Ward 5. The implementation of this change has proven to be highly unsuccessful.

None of the rationalizations provided by Staff for the change from rear laneway to front curbside collection are defensible or reflective of conditions in Ward 5, Etobicoke Lakeshore. Staff claims that Solid Waste collection vehicles have difficulty entering the laneways, the laneways are too narrow, unsafe, unlit, and that enforcement is not feasible are not borne out by the fact that collections have safely and effectively taken place in rear laneways in Ward 5 for the last sixty years. Etobicoke's laneways tend to be wider and better lit than those found in older parts of the City of Toronto.

This change is causing hardship on businesses who have to drag garbage bins around their blocks for collection. Residents are finding the sidewalks difficult to pass, rather than promoting a "Clean and Beautiful City" this change is leading to more litter and less aesthetic appeal of retail areas in Ward 5, Etobicoke Lakeshore.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to direct Staff to revert to collection of Solid Waste, Recyclables, and Organics from rear laneways in Ward 5 in all those locations which enjoyed such service prior to July 1, 2008.
- 2, That City Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to communicate this to each municipal address affected by addressed mail.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd