



Tuesday, April 08, 2008

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Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Licensing and Standards Committee
City Hall,
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Sir:

RE: 12.4: Illegal Signs Staff Report

I will not be able to attend this meeting as I will be in Jacksonville, Florida. I am requesting that L&S Committee remain ceased of the matter and:

- **refer these reports to Community Councils and direct staff to provide ongoing reporting of the Investigations List at least three times a year to Licensing and Standards Committee.**

I would like to thank Councillor Moscoe and City Staff for their unbelievably hard work in trying to get the illegal billboard situation resolved. Since your committee started scrutinizing the issue, we have noticed a huge improvement at Buildings and ML&S and you deserve a lot of credit.

Unfortunately, the staff reports, while voluminous, are incomplete and I hope the next report can be more complete. There are two main problems:

- they do not report on a large number of complaints;
- the reports sometime state that a file is an “active Investigation” when in fact it has been closed for some time.

Incomplete Reporting

The most incomplete reporting is Attachment No. 1.a, Toronto Buildings, South District. For example, I filed complaints against improper permits at **11 Davies, 9 Davies** and **1383 Davenport**, and that’s just the letter ‘D’; those complaints have indeed been investigated by Buildings but they are not being reported to you. Unfortunately Buildings Department staff refuse to report to us directly their actions with respect to our complaints into improper permits. On the other hand, Municipal Licensing staff are good at reporting to us their actions and giving us updates. We are very much in need of knowing how Buildings is responding to

our complaints into improperly issued permits. These will be key issues when the new by-law is written.

There are other instances of incomplete reporting. In Etobicoke, there are illegal billboards on Belfield where I filed complaints against #172, #62 and #115 but only #172 is being reported. In North York I filed complaints on Bridgeland Ave against #100, #302, #150, #250, #288 and #300 but only #100 and #302 are listed. And that's just the letter "B."

"Active Investigations"

Numerous signs, such as "374 Dupont Street" are internally classified as "legal" but are being reported to you as "Active Investigations." In the case of 374 Dupont, the it could be that these files were re-opened for a more diligent check. However, staff are not reporting any action. In order to be fully informed, the public needs to know what signs City Staff determine are legal and when they have closed files.

I hope these issues can be resolved next time staff report.

I will re-file any missing complaints from North, West and South District Staff just to be sure that all signs are reported on next time.

Thanks again for your amazing leadership.

Sincerely,

Rami Tabello