

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Councillor Howard Moscoe, Chair  
Licensing & Standards Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower

Dear Councillor Moscoe:

**RE: PERIMETER FENCES AROUND CEMETERIES**

I am writing to request that an important matter be added to the next Licensing and Standards Committee meeting of January 9, 2009. A recent event within my Ward has made clear the need for a bylaw regarding perimeter fences around cemeteries. Although chain link fences may be acceptable in some situations, when certain uses, including residential homes, are adjacent to the cemetery they may not be.

For example, the Prospect Cemetery in Ward 17 is bounded by a historic perimeter stone wall that acts as a buffer for literally thousands of adjacent private backyards and ensures the appropriate amount of privacy and solemnity inside the cemetery itself. The Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries has expressed an interest in tearing down this wall and replacing it with a chain link fence, which has shocked and outraged the local community.

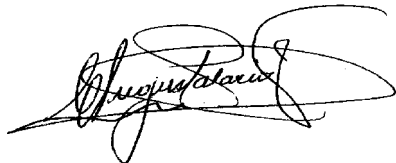
There is a clear need in similar cases for a bylaw that would specify what materials Cemeteries in Toronto may erect perimeter fences out of, with an aim to properly buffer the cemetery from private residential properties and ensure the appropriate level of privacy and solemnity within the cemetery itself, not simply the cheapest or most expedient fence.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Licensing and Standards Committee request City Staff to report back on the feasibility of a bylaw that would specify what materials Cemeteries in Toronto may erect perimeter fences out of, with an aim to properly buffer the cemetery from private residential properties and ensure the appropriate level of privacy and solemnity within the cemetery itself.

I hope that Committee members can support this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cesar Palacio', written in a cursive style.

Cesar Palacio  
Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 17 – Davenport