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## Parks and Environment Committee

<b>Meeting No.</b>	22	<b>Contact</b>	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday, February 5, 2009	<b>Phone</b>	416-397-7769
<b>Start Time</b>	9:30 AM	<b>E-mail</b>	pec@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Committee Room 1, City Hall	<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Paula Fletcher

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Parks and Environment Committee		
Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair) Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice-Chair Environment)	Councillor Ron Moeser Councillor Frances Nunziata	Councillor Karen Stintz (Vice-Chair Parks) Councillor Michael Walker

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### **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

**Speakers/Presentations: A complete list will be distributed at the meeting**

**Confirmation of Minutes - January 16, 2009****Communications/Reports**

PE22.1	Presentation			Ward: All
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**Presentations by Expert Panel on Urban Food Production****Summary**

In keeping with Toronto's commitment to environmental leadership, work is underway to develop a comprehensive strategy to address emerging issues related to the field of urban agriculture and increase lands for urban food production. Food strategy is an important component of the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan, which was unanimously adopted by City Council in July, 2007.

In an effort to provide an educational forum for Committee members, other members of Council and the general public, a number of experts in the field of urban agriculture have been invited to make presentations about current issues arising in the field of urban food production and how the City of Toronto can best support the urban agriculture movement while considering important constraints and opportunities.

Staff Presentations and Updates – 10 minutes

Lawson Oates, Director, Toronto Environment Office:

Mr. Oates will provide an overview of the relationship between urban agriculture and the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation:

Ms. Patterson will provide a summary on the efforts Parks, Forestry and Recreation are making to increase food production in community space in Toronto.

Additional updates on major food and urban agriculture related initiatives.

Expert Panel Presentations from:

(a) Lauren Baker – Director, Ontario Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming:

Ms. Baker will speak about the land use and regulatory barriers related to urban food production, including zoning, taxation and composting.

(b) Solomon Boyé – Community Gardens Program Coordinator, City of Toronto:

Mr. Boyé will speak about community and allotment gardens in the City of Toronto and the Black Creek Urban Farm.

- (c) Paula Sobie – Owner/Operator of City Harvest, a SPIN (Small Plot INTensive) Farming business:

Ms. Sobie will discuss SPIN-Farming and the business City Harvest, which she started and ran for the past two years in Victoria, BC using this farm model. She will also share her insights regarding regulatory barriers and urban food systems along with capitalizing on community support.

- (d) Rhonda Teitel-Payne – Urban Agriculture Manager, The Stop Community Food Centre:

Ms. Teitel-Payne will touch on the opportunities and barriers for urban growers to market their products and will discuss the need for more greenhouses and better access to existing greenhouses in the city.

- (e) James Kuhns and Joe Nasr - MetroAg, AllianceforUrban Agriculture:

Mr. Kuhns and Mr. Nasr will discuss and highlight the creation of a Toronto Urban Agriculture Centre at Parc Downsview Park to show the partnerships emerging around urban food production.

- (f) Debbie Field – Executive Director, FoodShare:

Ms. Field will propose a partnership structure between government and community groups to expand community gardening, edible landscapes and fruit trees, thus increasing production of fresh produce for personal consumption in Toronto which will improve health and provide income substitution in these difficult financial times.

### **Background Information**

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee invitation to the Expert Panel on Urban Food Production

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-18650.pdf>

Gardening Workshop

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-18651.pdf>