



SANDRA BUSSIN
COUNCIL SPEAKER
Toronto City Council

September 3, 2009

Chair and Members of
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
City of Toronto

**Re: To prohibit the use of City of Toronto Parks, Parks Properties
and Facilities for Temporary Garbage Dumps during City
Employee Labour Disruptions**



City Councillor
Beaches - East York
Ward 32

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Dear Chair and Members,

One of the most vexatious aspects of the City workers strike this summer was the use of our parks, parks properties and facilities such as sports fields, parking lots and playing courts for temporary community garbage dumps.

The decision as to where to locate these sites across the City was made in the absence of Council approval and public consultation. City Councillors and their constituents were not afforded the opportunity to review or comment on the sites chosen by senior City managers.

In numerous cases, the sites chosen were completely inappropriate and did not take into consideration local conditions or the impact on neighbouring communities. As a result, a very negative and adversarial climate arose pitting local residents against what was perceived as uncaring and negligent City administration. This theme was played out in the media throughout the strike and detracted from the City's image in its attempt to end the strike and achieve an affordable settlement.

In my own community, the choice of Ted Reeve Arena's parking lot for a temporary dump demonstrated all the negative aspects of using a city Park for this purpose in the middle of a residential neighbourhood. In 2002, during the last municipal workers strike, Ted Reeve hosted a temporary dump. Since then, however, a whole residential community has grown up near the parking lot. The City did not consider the changed nature of this neighbourhood. City managers were unaware of this and chose this site because of prior use.

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I respectfully request that the Works and Infrastructure Committee adopt the following motions:

1. Develop a policy that prohibits the use of City of Toronto Parks, parks properties and facilities for temporary garbage dumps during city employee labour disruptions.
2. That Public Works sites or other City properties located in commercial or industrial zoned areas be used for temporary dumps sites only.
3. In an event of a future strike by city employees, that temporary dump sites not be opened until the second week of the strike.
4. City Councillors in wards where future temporary dumps may be located be fully consulted prior to the placement of temporary dumps.

Thank you for your support of these motions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Bussin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Bussin
Council Speaker
City Councillor, Beaches - East York - Ward 32