

BU 46.2.3

**Re: 2014 Rate Supported Budgets: Solid Waste Management Services and Recommended 2014 Solid Waste Rates**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Executive Committee today. I am here representing Social Planning Toronto, an independent, non-profit organization with over 200 organizational members. Many of our member organizations are directly impacted by the city's decision to reinstate the fees for solid waste collection for charities and non-profit organizations, and I am here today to request that the City return to its previous long-standing policy of not charging these organizations for solid waste collection.

The city invests in the city's non-profit community infrastructure in a number of ways – provision of below-market rent for some organizations, support through the Community Partnership Investment Program for others, and, historically, by providing free solid waste pick up for others. If the City does impose fees for solid waste collection, payment for these fees will result in reductions in the quality or quantity of programming provided by these organizations – or from increased user fees or donations – in almost every case, making it harder for these organizations to serve their communities.

When fully implemented, the fees being charged will place a substantial burden on many organizations – while many were implementing recycling and reduction initiatives well before this became an issue, and while many other organizations have benefitted from the attention and support that City staff have provided over the last year to promote recycling and waste reduction, there comes a point beyond which it is extremely challenging to reduce further, and the projected fees still mean that many organizations will be facing solid waste pick up bills in the thousands – and in some cases tens of thousands – of dollars. Collectively, the full implementation of the fees will mean that well over a million dollars a year is shifted from program delivery by community organizations across the city into paying for garbage pick-up. I would hope that is not a direction that the City would want to take.

The approach that the city has taken over the past year – working collaboratively with charities and non-profits to educate and promote recycling and reduction – has resulted in significant reductions in the solid waste generated by those organizations. We've heard from our member organizations that this approach has been much more effective in promoting their waste reduction efforts than the prospect of fees being charged. Re-imposition of the proposed fee schedule threatens to jeopardize the goodwill and positive



**MAIN OFFICE**

2 Carlton Street  
Suite 1001  
Toronto, ON M5B 1J3  
T: 416.351.0095  
F: 416.351.0107  
info@socialplanningtoronto.org  
www.socialplanningtoronto.org

**Community Offices**

**Etobicoke**  
The Shaver Homestead  
450 The West Mall, Suite 205  
Etobicoke M9C 1E9

**Scarborough**  
2100 Ellesmere Road Suite 327-E  
Scarborough M1H 3B7

**York/West Toronto**  
1652 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M6M 3W3

**ANC Mount Dennis**  
1366 B Weston Rd  
Toronto, ON M6M 4R8

momentum that has been generated, and may well set back efforts to continue to promote recycling and waste reduction, as smaller organizations simply 'take their garbage home' and put it into the residential waste stream, while larger organizations explore private waste disposal options, as some have already done.

Social Planning Toronto, and our member agencies, are happy to continue to work with city staff to continue to reduce the volume of waste produced, but believe that this can best be achieved by education and collaboration, rather than by the 'punitive' imposition of fees. Re-introduction of the fees will impair the capacity of hundreds of organizations to deliver support and services to community members across the city, and mean a real reduction in the city's investment in its community infrastructure.

Again, thank you for your time and attention.

John Campey  
Executive Director