



January 20, 2020

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To: Members of the Budget Committee

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is an incorporated Community Association whose footprint includes part of the Rosedale Valley Ravine and contains three bridges over the Ravine (Glen Road footbridge, Sherbourne and the Mount Pleasant Bridges).

Our deputation and submission requests that the Budget Committee recommend to City Council funding for the 2020 year pursuant to the Council Decision of October 2, 2017 when the Ravine Strategy was approved (Ex27.8).

### **Amending Motion by Councillor Wong-Tam:**

1. Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (Carried)

That:

2. City Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management to coordinate with the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to develop a regular maintenance and litter strategy for Toronto's Ravine System and to report back through the 2018 Budget Process on the budgetary requirements for such a program.

2018 Budget – Not addressed

2019 Budget – Not addressed

2020 Budget – Not addressed

2021 Recommendation coming to the Executive Committee, EX12.1 January 23.

2020:

“City Council direct that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, request as part of the 2021 Operating Budget process, for consideration, the following:

- a) The necessary operating funds to support the creation of a dedicated Ravine Litter Cleanup program, with an estimated annual cost of \$0.657 million, including timelines for phasing in this service level increase.”

This recommendation **falls short** of the Council approved motion in 2017.

## Requests of the City Budget Committee

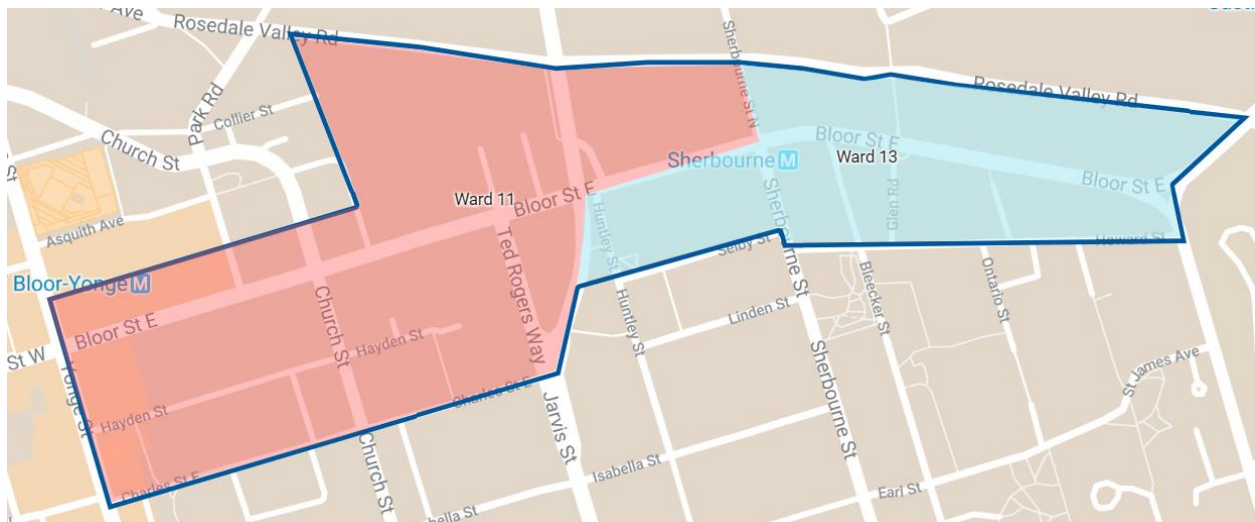
1. Advance the Funding for the dedicated Ravine Litter Cleanup program to 2020.
2. Address the October 2017 City Council Amending Motion with respect to the coordination of Solid Waste, Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a regular maintenance and litter strategy in the 2020 Budget.

## Reasons for the Requests

Item 1. This funding has required for years, specifically requested for 2018 and addressing it for 2021 is too late we need it **now**.

Item 2. Responsibility for cleaning up the Ravine does not rest entirely with Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Responsibility for the cleanup of the areas around and under the Bridges as well as the Transportation Right of Ways in the Ravines are the responsibility of Transportation Services.

BENA has both Bridges and a Transportation Right of Way within our footprint below and are contained in two Wards 11 and 13.



The following recent experience with the lack of such coordination is being used to demonstrate why it is needed. The issues could equally be applied to the Mount Pleasant Bridge.



### **Summer to December**

- 311 Calls with respect to encampment
- Anticipated Fall Sweep and Cleanup – none completed
- Emails with Councillors Wong-Tam and Layton's offices – Reporting that City Staff were not moving the inhabitants as no-where to go. Supports through sleeping bags, wellness checks etc.

### **City Action – January 2020**

- January 4 read Media reports and a “sweep of the Rosedale Valley Ravine” by Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Email to Councillors' Offices for clarifications January 6
  - Does this include under the bridges where Transportation has responsibility?

- Extent of cleanup – inclusive of contaminated areas? If not, will they be secured?
- Plan going forward?
- When will the Sherbourne Bridge be further secured?
- Answers to above received – the sweep of removing those in the encampments includes under the Bridges. Remaining question out for answers.
- **January 6 – “Sweep” of the Rosedale Valley Ravine**
- Observations
  - Saw persons cleaning the litter in the ravine but not under the bridge and were dressed in protective outerwear
  - The area under the Sherbourne Bridge was not cleaned nor secured from the 8<sup>th</sup> though to the 12<sup>th</sup>
- **Fire on Sunday the 12 at approximately 4:30 pm**
  - Sherbourne Bridge closed to vehicular traffic
  - Cleanup under contracted to a Contaminated Waste Disposal company, commenced work on Wed the 15<sup>th</sup>. Area under the Bridge not secured until work commenced, currently unsecured
  - Bridge to have outside Engineers inspect the Bridge for structural integrity prior to reopening – pending

We have been advised that Toronto Fire has not determined a cause. Please note that myself and other residents heard what sounded like a series of gun shot which in retrospect were a series of explosions. Per the Fire Department’s Twitter account, it was difficult to find the source of the fire and it was a very hot fire.

The following are pictures of under the bridge both before after the fire taken on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January by myself and shows that this area was not secured after the “Sweep”.





Prior to the Fire taken at the beginning of Dec for follow up to the City.













## **Final Comments:**

The inaction of the City of Toronto left exposed a very vulnerable area which borders on private property. It put at risk not only lives but that of a designated Heritage Building. This Heritage Building does have some damage from the fire.

A simple process in place to coordinate this “Sweep” and Cleanup could have prevented this expensive result.

By our requests, we are asking you to follow the information put into your “**A Property Owner’s Guide to Healthy Ravines**” excerpt below:

### **“Be A Good Neighbour**

Keep in mind that what happens on your ravine property can affect neighbours beside and below you.”

City of Toronto, you are my neighbour, and right now you are not a good neighbour.

**Please address the funding and structural defects immediately.**

Respectfully submitted on behalf of BENA;

Linda A Brett, President  
Cc Operations Committee of BENA  
Councillor Wong-Tam  
Councillor Layton