



James Pasternak
Councillor | York Centre - Downsview

Toronto City Hall

City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, 2nd Floor, A22
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

November 18th, 2021

Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**Toronto City Hall,
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2**

Re: Extending the Existing Parking Exemptions (Statutory Holidays) to Include Holidays of Religious Significance

Summary:

Every year, faith based communities across the City, reconnect with their family, friends and loved ones while celebrating specific religious holidays rooted in their respective faith traditions. Several religious holidays that are observed by Torontonians of various backgrounds, creeds and beliefs should be accommodated for by parking exemptions. Currently, only statutory holidays are exempted. Integrating religious holidays as well may not only allow for people's sincerely held creed, beliefs, and practices to be accommodated for but more importantly lead to more inclusive neighbourhoods that celebrate the diverse mosaic and cultural fabric of Toronto.

Recommendations:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with Toronto Police Service, to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in Q2 2022 on the feasibility of providing parking exemptions on city streets during religious holidays.

Sincerely,

Councillor James Pasternak
Toronto - Ward 6, York Centre - Downsview

