From: Linda Chu <lchu@sothebysrealty.ca>  
To: <clerk@toronto.ca>  
Date: 5/10/2013 9:39 AM  
Subject: My comments for 2013.MM33.24 on May 7, 2013 City Council  
CC: Melissa Wong <mwongb@toronto.ca>, Kristyn Wong-Tam <councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca>  
Attachments: letter re lay-by removal Bay Street west side south of Yorkville.pdf; Pusateris' Lay By.pdf

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 7, 2013 City Council meeting on item 2013.MM33.24, Request to consider Road Alteration - Bay Street, South of Yorkville Avenue - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:
Linda Chu
ABC Residents' Association
Thursday, April 25, 2013

Councillor Wong-Tam
City of Toronto - City Hall
100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

RE: Bay Davenport Yorkville Road Reconstruction Project – West side of Bay, South of Yorkville

Dear Councillor Wong Tam,

ABC Residents’ Association has worked with the City, Bloor-Yorkville BIA, GYRA and other groups over the past few years to improve this stretch of Bay Street to better vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to enhance the public realm in this area.

After careful consideration and review of the report by LEA Consulting Ltd. ABC (Avenue Bay Cottingham) Resident’s Association fully supports the removal of the lay-by south of Yorkville on the East side of Bay as in the proposed plans for the Bay Davenport Yorkville Road Reconstruction Project.

The lay-by is currently used as short term parking exclusively for Pusateris clientele and not as a true car valet service.

Option 6 in the LEA report does not solve the “pedestrian squeeze” the lay-by currently creates and the lack of separation and pavement distinction between vehicular and pedestrian is not a viable solution on this fast moving high traffic major arterial road.

Option 3 in the LEA report is the most viable with an efficient car valet service and policing of Genoa Street (formerly Genoa Lane). 94 Cumberland Avenue’s development application assured there is and would be adequate capacity to facilitate loading and services for all properties abutting Genoa Street.

ABC Resident’s Association believes the public benefit of a full sidewalk is a necessity in this area to accommodate the increased number of residents and visitors over the last ten years. We look forward to a renewed Bay Streetscape.

Sincerely,

Linda Chu,
ABC Resident’s Association
May 7th 2013

Re:  Pusateris’ Lay By – West side of Bay Street south of Yorkville
Bay Davenport Road Reconstruction Project

Dear Councillors,

This may seem a small issue but it is has big implications, as it undermines City of Toronto processes and policies.

The Bay Davenport Reconstruction Project has been in the planning for years, plans were finalized and presented to the community in Fall 2012. The owners of Pusateris were duly notified, but at the last minute came forward to object the removal of the lay by in front of their establishment early 2013 with the help of professional Lobbyists.

The Bay Davenport Reconstruction Project’s objective is to enhance the streetscape to accommodate the increased number of pedestrians due to growth of the City and residential intensification in the Yorkville area.

Removal of 1) the public TTC bus lay by and 2) private Pusateris lay by essentially widens the sidewalk for pedestrian comfort and safety. TTC has no objection to removal their lay by.

If the City were to do a road widening they would never consider exempting a portion of the road for a single business or property owner, why should the City in this case of widening the public sidewalk on a busy major arterial road favour a single business Pusateris?

Pusateris’ has had the exclusive private use of this lay by for over 10 years for a car valet service which is not a true car valet service, their customers use the lay by to park up to 4 cars.

The City does not have any financial obligations to either Pusateris or Minto. Neither Pusateris nor Minto have paid any extra fees over the last 10+ years. The original charge to Minto to construct the lay by was approximately $80K. Amortized over 10 years it is $8K per year or $167 per month per spot ($8K/12 months/4 cars) well below parking rates for Yorkville. The building already has a valet parking service off Genoa Street (formerly Genoa Lane) which could easily service Pusateris. As well Minto is the Developer of the recent approved application for 94 Cumberland which abuts Genoa Lane and thus Minto is in control of 50% of the entire block and says there is adequate capacity to service their buildings from Genoa Street.

Pusateris and Minto need to develop a valet parking solution within their property. A reduction of the size of the lay by is not acceptable. City Council must vote to remove both lay bys on the west side of Bay south of Yorkville.

Respectfully,

Linda Chu, Yorkville Resident and Pusateris patron.