



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

January 16, 2014

Parks & Environment Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen St. West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair & Members,

Re: Pumpkin Parades for Non-Profit Groups

In October 2013, Council amended item PE22.5 "Parks Plan 2013-2017 – Report on Various Requests" to direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation to implement the procedure for pumpkin parades in parks, and waive fees for non-profit groups that commit to obtaining a permit and cleaning the park afterwards".

This motion was intended to serve as a thank you to our 'Friends Groups' who volunteer in their communities to help maintain, animate and beautify their local parks. Pumpkin parades are another example of the community spirit that we should foster in our parks.

Unfortunately, when many 'Friends Groups' went to secure their free permits for November 1, 2013, they were informed that they would be required to provide proof of insurance, which is costly and unrealistic for a volunteer event. The implementation of this policy was not in keeping with the spirit of the motion.

I request:

- 1) The General Manager for Parks, Forestry & Recreation report to the Parks & Environment Committee at the April 14, 2014 meeting on the implementation of a seamless, hassle-free pumpkin parade permitting process that covers fees and insurance for 2014; and
- 2) Recognize pumpkin parades as a community-led parks initiative that fulfills the goals of Toronto's new Parks plan

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth