

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM10.7	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Review of the Clothing Drop Box By-law - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Licensing and Standards Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to undertake a review of the Clothing Drop Box By-law and report to the Licensing and Standards Committee on ways in which the by-law can be strengthened, including options for limiting the number of clothing drop box permits issued for locations in close proximity to one another.

**Summary**

In 2013, the City of Toronto introduced new regulations governing the placement and operation of clothing drop boxes within the City. Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 395, Clothing Drop Boxes, requires that all clothing drop boxes placed on public or private property display a permit. In addition, Chapter 395 limits the number of drop boxes per property, with two being the maximum per municipal address.

Since the enactment of Chapter 395, I have noticed a proliferation of clothing drop boxes in Ward 11. These boxes have been placed on public and/or private property, many without permits or permission from property owners. In addition to the permit fee for clothing drop boxes, Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, sets out fees for enforcement by the City in association with retrieval, storage, and disposal of illegal clothing drop boxes. Despite these fees, clothing drop box operators continue to place boxes on private and City property illegally. Examples exist in my Ward, and undoubtedly across the City, where Municipal Licensing and Standards will make arrangements with Transportation Services for the removal of the boxes from City property, only to find another one placed at the same location shortly thereafter.

In addition to problems with clothing drop boxes being placed illegally, there are also problems

associated with locations where these boxes are placed with proper permits, with illegal dumping around the boxes being a common occurrence. While the City's by-laws place the onus on the clothing drop box owner or operator to ensure the area around the box is maintained free of "tall grass or weeds, litter, trash or is generally unkempt", enforcement by the City is often required to ensure these conditions are met.

Clothing drop boxes serve a benefit to the many charitable organizations using them to receive donations. At the same time, they often bring with them the consequence of illegal dumping and the appearance of an unkempt neighborhood. We need to review our by-laws to see how we can balance the need for these boxes by charitable organizations, while strengthening the regulations and enforcement around their placement and maintenance.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM10.7