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Tuesday, April-07-15

Dear members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

Re: Solid Waste Collection Services for Commercial Customers

Solid Waste Management Services provides curbside collection services for a fee to small commercial establishments via the Yellow Bag Program. Approved customers pay for service according to the amount of garbage generated and are able to purchase premium (2, 5, or 6 days a week) organics collection services if required.

The eligibility criteria for commercial customers was harmonized following amalgamation and the commercial collection by-laws of the former municipalities were consolidated into one, in 2002. The by-law was designed to encourage Toronto's commercial customers to decrease garbage disposal and increase recycling and organics collection. From an operational and budgetary perspective, servicing larger commercial properties in excess of 500 square metres and four storeys was not optimal.

With the increase in the redevelopment and revitalization of the city in the commercial sector and the importance of protecting the environment by diverting waste as a priority for all, the size of a building may no longer be reflective of waste generation.

I am therefore requesting staff conduct a review of the eligibility criteria for commercial properties to receive collection services from the city. This review shall consider the impact of expanding collection services to commercial establishments which exceed the current eligibility criteria. As any expansion of the current service provided may impact the annual operating budgets and associated revenues, the review will be considered as part of the 2016 budget process.

I therefore ask that the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee:

Request the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services review the eligibility criteria for commercial properties and report back through the 2016 budget process on the impact of expanding the program to allow for larger commercial establishments.

Recognizing that the size of a commercial building may no longer be reflective of the waste generated and our shared goal in improving waste diversion rates I strongly encourage committee members to support this initiative. Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Ana Bailão
City Councillor,
Ward 18, Davenport