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TO: Chair and Members
Toronto and East York Community Council

RE: **Canada Post Community Mailbox Implementation**

Canada Post has announced a plan to replace door-to-door home delivery with a community mailbox system. Canada Post has completed or is in the process of installation of the new system in several Canadian cities. The implementation is intended to take place in Toronto in the next couple of years, though no clear schedule has been released publicly.

There are many concerns about the proposed installation based on the experience in other cities such as Winnipeg, Calgary and Hamilton: vandalism and theft; access challenges for seniors and those with disabilities; lighting and safety; limited space for placement of boxes on private and public land.

In Toronto, thousands of locations will need to be found for the new mailbox hubs. The Public Realm Unit has been working for many years to identify appropriate locations for street furniture, reduce the clutter of publication boxes, ensure our streets meet the Vibrant Streets Guidelines and accessibility requirements. In addition the City is developing a comprehensive Toronto 360 Way-finding and Complete Streets strategy. It is unclear how the community mail boxes will be integrated into these City initiatives.

The implementation plan for community mailboxes in Toronto is unknown at this time. Toronto and East York Community Council district contains some of our most dense urban neighbourhoods, and finding locations for boxes in residential neighbourhoods will be a challenge for both public right-of-way and private property. I believe it is important for City Councillors and the public to understand what the Canada Post implementation strategy is, and what role the City is playing with respect to the planning and selection of locations. I would therefore like to move the following recommendation:

That the Director of the Public Realm Unit, in consultation with the Director of Community Planning, Toronto and East York District, report to June 16 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council, with information on the proposed implementation of Canada Post community mailboxes in the Toronto and East York District, including: any discussions that have taken place with the Federal Government or Canada Post; the authority and responsibilities of Canada Post and the City of Toronto with respect to implementation, placement locations, and relationship to other City policies, guidelines and obligations for the public right-of-way; and any other pertinent information.

Sincerely,

Councillor Janet Davis
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