

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM23.22	ACTION			Ward:20
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### **Municipal response and communication during rail safety incidents - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow**

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

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

### **Recommendations**

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, to consult with relevant City divisions and Transport Canada, to review and report back on the response to the CP train derailment on August 21, 2016 at Dupont Street and Howland Avenue, with a focus on the City's current communications protocol during derailments and similar incidents - both with the wider public and adjacent local community - and with recommendations for improvement.

### **Summary**

Rail safety is a critical issue for communities across Toronto. The tragedy in Lac Megantic on July 6, 2013, and a number of other incidents over the past number of years, continues to remind us of the serious risks associated with freight rail running through our densely populated neighbourhoods.

Recently, a train derailment in August at Dupont Street and Howland Avenue in Ward 20 underscored these concerns. The incident occurred within the Annex community, and was an alarming reminder of local rail safety risks, and the need for the Federal Government to ask to ensure the safety of our communities. While this incident was contained, it has reminded our communities that we need to do everything we can to protect our neighbourhoods.

Since the incident, my office has received a number of inquiries from local residents regarding the City's response and communications protocol during this specific derailment, and generally for future situations. Residents were concerned that they did not receive formal communication from the City, or other levels of government, regarding the derailment – the severity, the materials being transported, the response, etc. This left many local residents feeling concerned, confused, and uncertain of the potential impacts.

City Council has formally made a number of requests of the Federal government related to rail safety, including a request to promote better communication between the rail industry and local

communities.

However, until this request is granted, it is critical that the City do whatever we can to inform our local community members when rail safety incidents occur, and are aware of the actions being taken to continue to ensure their safety.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM23.22