

TORONTO FINANCIAL DISTRICT BIA

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April 18, 2016

Councillor Jaye Robinson
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West, Suite A12
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Robinson:

RE: PW12.10 - COORDINATED STREET FURNITURE PROGRAM - STATUS UPDATE YEAR 8 AND PUBLICATION BOX LICENSING PROGRAM REVIEW

The Toronto Financial District BIA applauds the City of Toronto for progress on reducing sidewalk clutter through the consolidation and reduction of publication boxes and recognition that publication boxes and supporting structures can be an impediment to pedestrian flows on congested sidewalks in the Financial District.

In September 2015, the Toronto Financial District BIA undertook a survey of publication box use in our district and found that, while free publication boxes get frequent use, most other publication boxes are infrequently used. Given the high volume of pedestrian traffic on relatively narrow sidewalks in the Financial District, it is critical that the City continue to manage publication boxes with an eye toward mitigating sidewalk congestion in highly-trafficked areas, such as Bay Street.

We look forward to continuing to work with City staff to minimize pedestrian impediments caused by publication box placement and identify further opportunities to migrate single boxes into corrals or kiosks.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Humes".

Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Stephen Holyday
Councillor Chin Lee
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon
Councillor Ron Moeser
Councillor Anthony Perruzza
Councillor Pam McConnell
Stephen Buckley
Elyse Parker