

MEMO

TO: Planning and Growth Management Committee
FROM: Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21, St. Paul's West
RE: Residential Solar Panel Protection Provisions
DATE: August 23, 2017

Recommendation:

Request that the Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning write a report on the "right to sunlight" for solar installations in the vicinity of new developments, and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee as soon as possible in 2018. The report should outline the feasibility of implementing protocols, guidelines and/or a by-law to protect residential properties with existing installations to address the impact of new builds and developments on existing or future solar installations.

Background:

Solar energy recently became the cheapest source of new electricity generation globally. As residents and neighbourhood properties continue to install this more competitive and environmentally sustainable technology, City policies and regulations need to be developed to ensure neighbourhood development processes and City growth strategies align to support good development.

Residential solar policy is an underdeveloped policy area and the City needs to understand how it will meet competing interests of new developments and neighbourhood installations, particularly where solar installations may be impacted negatively.

Sincerely,



Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West



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