

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

City Clerk  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. Carol Kaustinen  
Committee Secretariat  
Community Development and Recreation Committee

**Re: CD29.5 Closing the Service gap in the Downtown East Revitalization Area**


Dear members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (DYBIA) its membership of over 2000 represented member businesses and key stakeholders, I am writing in response to the staff report going to committee on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The report as it stands today, woefully lacks the sense of urgency, the proactive solutions and the appropriate resourcing model to address the “critical” issues in the Downtown East Community and specifically the Downtown Yonge neighbourhood.



While we appreciate the work being done by specific departments within the City of Toronto on these concerns, we continue to see an increase use in drugs, drug dealing, homelessness, mental health issues, discarded needles, gang activity, increase in assaults, gun and knife use in the area.

We have been advocating, conducting research, compiling data, providing detailed impact statements for over a year based on the issues we are encountering. Based on our work, we have developed our own proactive solutions to the issues, worked in partnership with key stakeholders in hopes of providing some relief to the concerns of the community and businesses.



However; the real need is a cohesive and collaborative strategy with urgent immediate and measurable tactical steps, leading to various medium and long term plan deliverables to address the “critical” issues being experienced. Our identified priorities would be as follows:

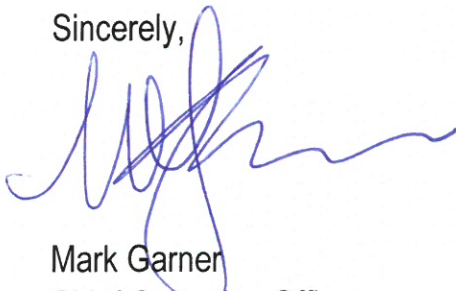
- Hire immediately a minimum of (10) ten peer to peer outreach workers to cover the needs of the community, Monday to Sunday during the critical hours to ensure the street-involved population is using the Supervised Injection Site (SIS) and discarding needles appropriately.
- Increase the service and maintenance of the Downtown Yonge neighbourhood, by increasing the daily cleaning of all public realm assets, which include parks, laneways, roads and sidewalks.
- Service level improvements on waste management pickups and cleaning of all street furniture assets which include, bus shelters, garbage cans and media / newspaper boxes.
- The immediate removal of all media / newspaper corrals in the Downtown Yonge Neighbourhood based on the fact the corrals are being used for needle disposal and other harm reduction items.
- Increase all enforcement resources immediately in the area, to include Toronto Police, Municipal Licensing and Standards and other front line organizations.
- Implementation of a “satellite” police substation for TPS resources from both 51 and 52 Division.
- Increase the Downtown East area of consideration (map) from the East side of Yonge Street (currently) to include from Yonge Street west to Bay Street.
- Walking tour of the area for “Key” City and Deputy City managers during the day and night, to appreciate the urgency and critical nature of the issues being encountered.

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- The need for compulsory data around needle stick injuries in the community, based on the unintended consequences of the SIS.
  - Review of the (4) four pillar model / approach for SIS in Toronto, to ensure the commitments to the community and those at risk have been delivered.

The Downtown Yonge BIA appreciates the effort and time invested to determine potential solutions in the staff report as presented; however there is a duty of care that needs to be recognized for all those that live, work, play, learn, shop and invest in the Downtown East community.

There is a sense of urgency, which is paramount in ensuring these critical issues are addressed proactively with immediate, medium and long term priorities which will address the root cause issues being encountered, ultimately leading to a neighbourhood which is safe and inclusive for all.

Sincerely,



Mark Garner  
Chief Operating Officer  
Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area

- c. Mayor John Tory  
James Pasternak, Councillor Ward 10, Community Development and Recreation  
Kristyn Wong-Tam, Councillor Ward 27  
Lucy Troisi, Councillor Ward 28