

March 27th, 2018

Re: Letter of Support for Bike Chopping Ban Bylaw in Parks

The Church-Wellesley Village BIA has experienced a change in the culture of Barbara Hall Park due to 'bike chopping'.

As a hub of a vulnerable community we have made efforts to improve safety. Unfortunately, organized bike theft and chopping have overtaken the stage area of Barbara Hall Park to a point where people in the LGBTQ community don't feel safe.

This bike chopping is organized, criminal behavior that police cannot stop under the existing bylaws.

Bike tools have been used as weapons. We watch as serial numbers are filed off bike frames and parts exchanged.

Bike chopping is hurting the community. People chopping bikes establish the park as a 'territory' during the summer months with many in our LGBTQ population feeling unwelcome and unsafe in Barbara Hall Park.

Bicycles are being stolen from people who cannot afford to use other means of transportation with little recourse for recovering the bike.

Paint and tools used in bike chopping and repainting are regularly stolen from our local independent hardware store. Staff members are often intimidated and local business suffers.

We support the bike-chopping ban bylaw for parks for the safety of our community, our members, business employees and visitors to The Village; and for the protection of affordable bicycle transportation for those in The Village.

Please feel free to contact us at office@churchwellesleyvillage.ca or 416-321-1351.