



Maureen Sirois, Chair  
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April 4, 2019

Via: Councillor James Pasternak  
Chair Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
City Hall 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON

Dear Councillor Pasternak,

**RE: INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM IE3.7 – COORDINATED STREET FURNITURE PROGRAM UPDATE – TO BE CONSIDERED by Council April 16, 2019**

The above noted agenda item includes a report from the General Manager of Transportation Services, dated March 19, 2019. Part of this report includes a recommendation to increase litter receptacle cleaning in order to reduce service requests.

We would like to propose a modification of this recommendation – a modification that we feel will better serve both the short and long term goals of reducing litter receptacle service requests.

The original plastic format receptacles, as noted in the report, are disliked by residents (40% are dissatisfied as opposed to 25% with the new metal receptacles). These original plastic receptacles have significant issues, as is substantiated by the 2018 resident survey and by Astral Media's retrofit program of these existing bins.


For BIAs, Astral Media and the City's Transportation – Public Realm division have offered a 'swap' program that would allow BIAs to replace the original plastic receptacles with the new metal version at a discounted cost. However, the demand for these new metal receptacles is so popular that a waitlist of 2+ years now exists for the swap to actually occur.

**Rather than focus on the short-term solution of increasing service of the original plastic receptacles, the replacement of the plastic receptacles to the newer, more functional metal receptacles should be expedited.**

In order to facilitate this, the additional funds freed up due to a reduction in the servicing of benches and publication boxes should instead be directed towards the capital costs of expediting receptacle replacement.

Service levels for litter cleaning would remain the same – as opposed to increasing – for the time being, to allow these new funds to expedite the swaps. Once all receptacles have been swapped to the newer metal bins, the excess funds can then at that time be utilized for increased litter cleaning. The above proposal addresses the root of the issue, by facilitating a faster replacement of the original plastic receptacles, and allowing for the better performing metal receptacles to come online sooner. Please kindly consider these modifications to the General Manager's recommendations. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maureen Sirois". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maureen Sirois