



The voice
of our
community

October 16th, 2019

Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

C/O Nancy Martins
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor, West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE8.6 – Winter Maintenance Program Review

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG), one of the City's oldest and most well-established ratepayer groups, we are writing to express our deep disappointment with the recommendations contained in the recent Report from the City's General Manager of Transportation Services regarding snow removal.

Snow removal is a critical issue for many residents in Deer Park, which is one of the few neighborhoods in the old City of Toronto that does not have their sidewalks cleared by city workers. This restricts residents from enjoying their neighbourhood and creates an unlivable environment that is becoming increasingly dangerous. Ice and snow left on sidewalks puts our community members and families in jeopardy.

Following requests by both you and City Council, the City undertook the expense to commission a report into its winter operations services. That report recommended a trial program on 250km of sidewalk out of the 1,400 km that is not currently mechanically cleared, or approximately 18% of the remaining streets.

It is unclear what such a test is meant to uncover, as staff should easily be able to determine equipment needs without "testing" the equipment it currently operates. Such a test will only result in further delays.

However, we were especially discouraged to read that staff are recommending to further scale back the unnecessary "test" to prioritizing areas that are already part of the senior sidewalk clearing program. This recommendation can only be taken to mean that staff do not see this issue as significant, or something that needs to be addressed.

The City's budget season is upon us again and we urge you to reject the staff recommendation and finally act on this pressing matter. **Our communities cannot afford another year of this safety hazard** and staff study as to whether something could be done. Commuters on their way



The voice
of our
community

to work, seniors buying groceries, parents pushing strollers, and children walking to school deserve the same protection others in our City enjoy.

This is the time to allocate the necessary funding and bring equitable sidewalk plowing to our high-pedestrian traffic neighbourhoods. The residents of Deer Park urge you to act now.

Sincerely,

John Plumadore

Past President

CC: Mayor John Tory
Councillor Matlow
President DPRG Cynthia Crysler