

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM5.3	ACTION			Ward: All
-------	--------	--	--	-----------

Promoting a Clean and Beautiful Toronto - Assessing Measures to Support Existing Public Realm By-laws - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the General Manager, Transportation Services to undertake a review of existing enforcement levels and education programs used to maintain public realm and sidewalk standards described in the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 743 - Article 36 and Chapter 545 – Article 3, and report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for its meeting on May 23, 2019 on:

- a. establishing opportunities for new or enhanced public education campaigns to educate business and property owners on their responsibilities, including the development of easily understood and accessible collateral, bulletins, or other media;
- b. detailing enforcement levels and the implications of undertaking inspections at least once per year to ensure general compliance; and
- c. identifying opportunities to leverage Business Improvement Area partnerships to promote public realm and sidewalk standard and disseminate related information more effectively.

Summary

Toronto's Municipal Code holds property and business owners to a high standard with regards to maintaining clear sidewalks, collecting patrons' waste, and maintaining boulevard planters and green spaces. However, Torontonians routinely observe that many business and property owners are failing to meet these standards, with plantings that have been abandoned for years, cigarette butts accumulating for days, and other obvious maintenance issues left unattended. Businesses and property owners also frequently report that they are not aware of the Municipal Code provisions governing these responsibilities and that it is unclear at multi-tenanted

commercial buildings who is specifically responsible for taking remedial action.

Toronto's Municipal Code, Chapter 743, Article 36, states that the occupier of land adjoining the street shall maintain the boulevard at their expense, including sustaining vegetation, keeping encroachments clean, and keeping the boulevard free of litter, rubbish, leaves, and other forms of debris.

Chapter 545, Article 3, states that licensees are required to maintain the public sidewalk, curbs and gutters surrounding their business free from littered cigarette butts, cigar tips, electronic cigarettes, and any waste disposal generated by their patrons.

The City of Toronto can do more to educate, promote, and enforce its by-laws to improve the conditions of its sidewalks and the public realm. A review of existing programs and new opportunities should be undertaken to determine how Toronto can elevate its standards and deliver the service levels mandated by the Municipal Code.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM5.3