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## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM12.14	ACTION			Ward: 8
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**Request for Report on the Feasibility of permanently closing a portion of Helendale Avenue, between Yonge Street and the rear of the Northern District Branch of Toronto Public Library for a park to be named Anne Johnston Parkette - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the North York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to the North York Community Council by end of the second quarter of 2020 on the feasibility of closing off a section of Helendale Avenue between Yonge Street and the rear of the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report back by the end of 2020 on the feasibility of naming the closed off section of Helendale Avenue between Yonge Street and the rear of the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library, and making this closed off portion into a park to be named the Anne Johnston Parkette in memory of the former City Councillor.

### Summary

In the face of rapid growth and development in the Yonge and Eglinton area, it is paramount to invest in park spaces to maintain the vibrancy and liveability of the neighbourhood. There is currently a dire shortage of park space in the Yonge and Eglinton area. Moreover, the area will see a sharp increase in people moving into the neighbourhood, as the development pipeline projects roughly 25,000 additional residents in the next 5-10 years, many of whom, as condo and apartment dwellers, will be living without access to backyards and front yards.

Former City Councillor Anne Johnston was a trailblazer and a champion for a liveable and accessible public realm for all. First elected to City Council in 1972, Anne served as a City of Toronto Councillor until 1985 and from 1988 to 1997, as a Metropolitan Toronto Councillor. After amalgamation in 1998, Anne served two terms as Councillor until 2003, fighting for her

local midtown residents.

Over the years, Anne championed various causes and foremost was her spearheading many local initiatives which included fighting for accessibility in public spaces, saving childcare centres, as well as advocating for seniors while serving as chair of the Toronto Seniors Assembly.

Anne left behind a legacy as a passionate proponent dedicated to her City and specifically her North Toronto community, and naming this parkette in her memory would be a fitting tribute to this tireless champion.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM12.14

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-140324.pdf>)