

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM35.28	ACTION			Ward: All
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Grass Cutting Services - Operations Completed by Transportation Services - by Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.
 * This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to review the service level for the current Transportation Services Right of Way Grass Cutting Contracts including the number of cuts per year on the City's boulevards, traffic islands and center medians, and report to the Budget Committee on any changes.

Summary

Following service level reductions approved through the City's budget process, complaints from residents regarding the decline in the number of grass or shrub cuts per year on our boulevards, traffic islands and center medians and the quality of work completed by staff and our contractors in Etobicoke Centre have drastically increased in recent years.

As part of the service guidelines, Transportation Services will maintain street trees, hedges and shrubs that were planted by the City, as well as vegetation and street trees planted in traffic islands and centre medians. Locations that receive grass cutting service under Transportation Services Right of Way Grass Cutting Contracts may be cut up to seven times per season. Weather conditions may play a role in determining the actual amount of cuts required. The reduced service levels have resulted in a state of disrepair for many of our traffic islands, centre medians and parkettes. In some cases the City fails to meet the property standards expected of residents, or creates situations where the integrity of the plant materials are degraded due to aggressive cuts spaced too far apart.

Visual comparison of these locations using a tool like Google Street View confirm what the neighbours have observed over time, deteriorated conditions over the years which detract from the beauty and enjoyment of our streets.

It is important to recognize that annual weather variation can affect appearances and growth rates year-to-year. It is also worth noting significant recent effort by staff to improve contract

management and oversight as well as communications on this program. However, a re-examination of the service levels are needed to ensure the long term health and vigor of the plant materials, and flexibility to address annual weather changes.

I am requesting that the General Manager, Transportation Services, develop a plan to restore our traffic islands and centre medians to the state they were several years ago.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM35.28