

Dear Councillors,

Reading this report has brought back haunting memories of seeing the signs at an intersection in Bloor West Village in 2017 and 2018 when I was shopping and banners on Lakeshore Blvd. West near Sunnyside swimming pool when driving to work at City Hall. I lost a baby 20 weeks into my pregnancy and these graphic images bring all that pain and feeling of loss flooding back.

I appreciate that you are now looking to protect particularly children who every day run to get the mail and I support this but this does not go far enough!

When flyers, signs and banners are displayed on public property there is no way to prevent people from seeing them whether they want to or not. The banners being held outside of schools where students cannot avoid them and on street corners where people have no choice but to see them.

I had people contact me and some still do:

These signs are very disturbing for men, women and children. They are designed to shock, alarm and cause dismay to those who have no choice but to be exposed to them

They are particularly stressful for women who are pregnant or who have lost a baby during pregnancy.

Children are traumatized by the blood and gore and have nightmares. Parents find it difficult to explain these images to young children

The images were not accurate for the weeks they were supposed to depict, this is false advertising

Why are they allowed to show these images when movies have to have ratings but these signs are in your face whether you want to see them or not?

When a report is coming on Television or the radio there is always a warning about the graphic or disturbing nature of the report, people then have a choice if they want to watch or listen.

This is hate speech directed against women, this is harassment, this is emotional abuse, they are a public nuisance

They block the sidewalk so you cannot get by particularly for those with disabilities or pushing a stroller

Women find it very intimidating when trying to get passed

They particularly like Lakeshore Blvd West just east of the Humber River to display the giant banners. These distract drivers and are a hazard to traffic and could cause an accident. On July 6, 2023 a friend who was out walking at 7:45am at Lakeshore and Ellis Avenue texted me to ask who she should report the giant graphic banners to, photo attached, I said 311 and the local councillor.

Both the December 5, 2017: MM35.10 Distribution and Display of Graphic Images and the July 23, 2018: MM44.35 Use of the Public Right of Way for Display of Graphic Images where my Member Motions and yet we are no further ahead to removing these graphic images from our neighbourhoods.

I am sure many of you councillors have heard from residents concerned not only about the mailings but the signs and banners across the city. Please work with city legal to find a way to prohibit these graphic signs that harass and traumatise people. Many cities look to Toronto for leadership on items like this.

Best regards,



Sarah Doucette

Attached:

Photo of Banners from July 6, 2023

Flyers used in 2017-2018

Banner on Lakeshore Blvd West 2018

Signs being held 2017

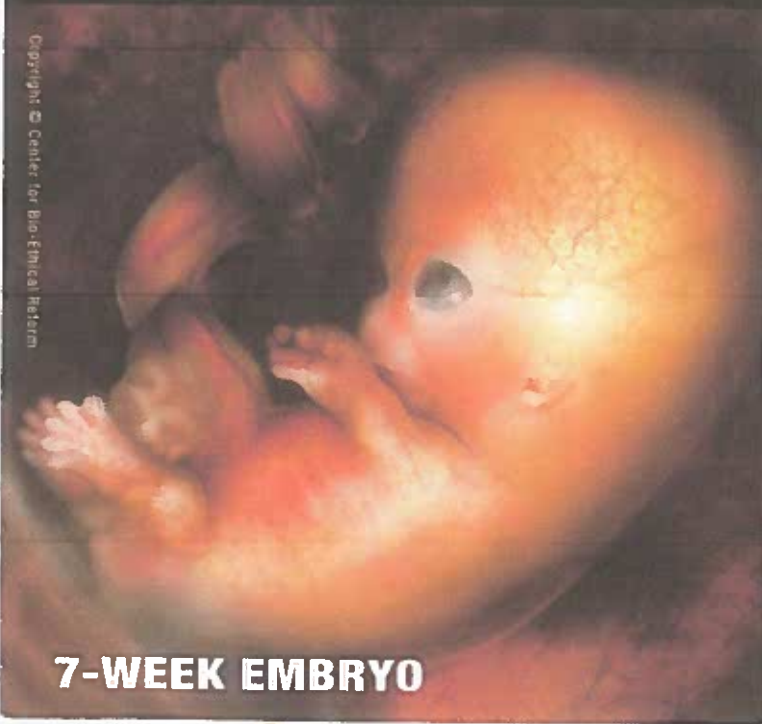


July 6, 2023 7:30am
Lakeshore Blvd West to Ellis Ave.

SHOULDN'T ALL HUMAN BEINGS

HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS?

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7-WEEK EMBRYO

22-WEEK FETUS

THEY SHOULD!

10-WEEK ABORTED FETUS

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20-WEEK ABORTED FETUS

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Lakewood Blvd West 8/2018



