

City Council

MM19.26	ACTION			Ward: All
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Towards a Beautiful City - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel

** 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 Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with all relevant City Divisions, to report back to Executive Committee by the fourth quarter of 2024, with a plan for the overall beautification of the public realm in the City of Toronto, including:

a. the feasibility of creating inter-divisional design standards for public realm and urban design on City of Toronto property, including roads, sidewalks, municipal buildings, and parks;

b. the feasibility of creating design standards for the public and urban design of new private developments, including streetscaping, frontage, and Privately-Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces; and

c. the feasibility of creating an Office of a City Designer and Architect, responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of these design standards and the overall beautification of the City's public realm.

Summary

Toronto can be beautiful if we choose to make it so. But too often, our urban design strives for the height of mediocrity and even falls into disrepair. Our bike lanes are lined with broken flex-posts, our CaféTO patios are surrounded by construction hoarding, and our Astral garbage cans are broken and overflowing. Our public realm can be so much better – and Torontonians deserve that.

This motion seeks to create unified public realm design standards across City divisions and the public realm portions of private developments, so that our public spaces can match those in great cities around the world. Further, it explores the creation of a new position, a City Architect and Designer, responsible for implementing and coordinating these standards across every corner of our city.

When we move into a new home, the first thing we do is design it in a way we can be inspired by and proud of. We should treat our city the same way.

Background Information

Member Motion MM19.26