



June 24, 2024

Toronto City Council
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Toronto City Council,

RE: MM19.3 - Dogs Off Leash Area Criteria for Commercial Dog Walkers

The ABC Residents Association (“ABCRA”) is an incorporated volunteer body that has been serving the community since 1957. ABCRA represents the interests of residents in the area bounded by Yonge Street, Avenue Road, Bloor Street, and the CPR tracks.

We are writing in full support of Councillor’s Saxe’s request to close Ramsden Park to Commercial Dog Walkers, and to develop criteria for which DOLA’s are appropriate locations for Commercial Dog Walkers.

Resident’s near Ramsden Park have been asking for changes to the Ramsden DOLA since it was first installed. As the population of people and dogs increases in the area, so does the noise. The noise begins every morning before 6 a.m. It continues throughout the day and through the night, until after midnight. It persists through all seasons, rain or shine. It includes the slamming of the iron gates at the entrance as people escort their dogs to and from the area; the barking and squabbling of dogs in the area and the voices of owners and dog walkers talking to their dogs, to each other and on their mobile phones. Depending on where they stand in the area, their conversations are clearly audible to people in nearby houses.

Unlike similar facilities in downtown Toronto, Ramsden Park’s off-leash area for dogs is located within 20 metres or less of a residential neighbourhood. Because of an acoustical anomaly created by a row of berms on one side and a hill on the other, sound from the off-leash area is amplified. Other off-leash areas at Allan Gardens, for example, Earlscourt Park, High Park, the Brickworks, Sunnybrook Park, Cherry Beach and the

Spadina Reservoir are, unlike Ramsden Park, located well away from residential neighbourhoods and well out of acoustical amphitheatres that magnify and project sound.

At the moment, we have no way of addressing the situation. We cannot expect dogs to stop barking or their owners to keep them quiet, but we are hopeful that a prohibition on commercial dog walkers will turn down the intensity of the noise at any one time.

We urge City Council to support this action.

Sincerely,

The ABC Residents Association,
Ian Carmichael and John Caliendo,
Co-Chairs
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