

councilmeeting

From: Paws For Parks <pawsforparksto@gmail.com>
Sent: April 22, 2025 9:38 PM
To: councilmeeting
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.IE20.9 on April 23, 2025 City Council - Supplementary Report from MLS

Categories: Communication (New)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the April 23, 2025 City Council meeting on item 2025.IE20.9, Toronto's Dog Off-Leash Strategy: A Citywide Approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Having reviewed the Supplementary Report from MLS, it is clear that we still do not have a strategy for enforcement as had been directed by Council.

Looking at the number of off-leash dog complaints vs the number of tickets issued is very telling. The statistics for the most recent year (2024) show 47 charges (which would average out to less than one per week) when there were more than 7,800 complaints filed. It is not surprising that people continue to run dogs off-leash - the likelihood that you are going to be one of the 47 people in the City issued a ticket for an off-leash dog is astronomically low.

The supplementary report provides the cost of more officers but, in our opinion, simply adding more officers is not going to solve the problem. More officers giving more basic education (i.e. "this is an on leash area and the law requires you to have your dog on leash") will not result in material behaviour change. We know this because this type of education has been provided by the City for years while off-leash complaints continue to rise. We would be more hopeful if MLS indicated that they were looking at Community Based Social Marketing techniques in their educational efforts, the efficacy of which is supported by studies. As it stands, the MLS would better serve the community by increasing the number of tickets issued and ensuring that by-law officers have the tools they need to be able to issue tickets.

We were glad to see at least the possibility of Special Constable Status mentioned in the report.

Regards,

Tracy Loconte
Paws for Parks