

**From:** [president@gdnatoronto.org](mailto:president@gdnatoronto.org)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2025.DM35.2 on December 16, 2025 City Council  
**Date:** December 16, 2025 2:14:48 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting on item 2025.DM35.2, Reimbursing Certain Reasonable Legal Expenses of Shelter Operators and Consultants - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak

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:

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing as a Toronto resident and as President of the Garment District Neighbourhood Association to express serious concern regarding Item 2025.DM35.2 and the precedent it sets for civic engagement, democratic rights, and accountability in municipal governance.

When municipal politicians label concerned residents as problems instead of answering their questions, trust in government breaks down.

This motion proposes that the City of Toronto assume responsibility for the legal fees of a City-funded “shelter engagement consultant.” In doing so, it shifts legal and financial risk away from a fully City-funded consultant - who is contractually required to carry insurance - and places that risk directly onto taxpayers. This shift raises legitimate concerns about accountability and responsible use of public funds.

More troubling is the language within the motion that enables Council to characterize residents who pursue legal remedies as engaging in “nuisance litigation.” This term has a specific and established legal meaning. It is a determination that can only be made by a court of law, not by elected officials. Allowing politicians to apply this label to residents seeking judicial review undermines the rule of law and risks discouraging lawful civic participation.

Toronto residents have a fundamental democratic right to challenge government decisions through appropriate legal channels, particularly where there are unresolved

questions of process, compliance, or fairness.


Across the city, residents have repeatedly sought clarity, transparency, and meaningful engagement on complex and impactful decisions. When those efforts fail, legal remedies are sometimes the only remaining option available to citizens. Framing such actions as illegitimate or “nuisance” behaviour, rather than as a lawful check on government authority, sets a dangerous precedent.

Many Toronto residents have already submitted letters expressing concern about this motion and its implications. I urge Council to reconsider both the substance and the language of this item, and to reaffirm its commitment to procedural fairness, accountability, and the democratic rights of residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtis Priest

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