

To: Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee

Re: EC 20.1

Dear Councillors,

My further comments on the report, in addition to those I sent in April:

COST TO THE COMMUNITY

Changing the permit cost to \$0 is good but that only covers part of the barrier. The insurance cost must also be removed for community permits. Please ask Parks and Rec insurance staff to investigate the number of claims relating to bake ovens over the past 30 years. If it turns out that the claims are very small, insurance could be covered by the city as it is with community gardens in parks.

DATA COLLECTION

This is an area with a lot of room for improvement. The city report gives total income for only 4 ovens out of 10. My FOI application to discover the number of park outdoor-oven permits over the past 20 year was assessed a staff-search fee **\$1050**. (I dropped the question.) Oven permit usage should be available through Open Data from now on, in a similar way that staff Pcard usage is now. That way, the effect of the new oven rules can be assessed quickly.

WHAT'S NEXT:

There are important contradictions in the proposed policy. Spring/summer/fall is when a clearer picture can emerge. A follow-up report by Parks and Rec staff in 6 months can be very enlightening. Also, it would give city staff and councillors a chance to see the different ovens in operation. Please add this follow-up timing to the motion.

P.s. **An invitation:** on **Thursday May 8** between 2 and 3 pm there will be a “pizza with park-garden spring greens” occasion at Dufferin Grove Park, for a group of U of T urban planning students. Then on **Saturday May 10** around lunchtime there will be a public gardens/oven event along the same lines. If any of the ECDC members would like to have a look, please let me know. I'd enjoy doing a show-and-tell.

Yours truly,

Jutta Mason

CELOS researcher

