

**From:** [Eglinton Park Ra](#)  
**To:** [Executive Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Thomas V Cohen](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2025.EX20.12 on January 28, 2025 Executive Committee  
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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 28, 2025 Executive Committee meeting on item 2025.EX20.12, Reducing Stormwater Runoff and Mitigating Basement Flooding

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:

If City is taking on asphalt parking as a water problem, a wise thing to do as climate changes, with hotter sun and bigger rains, it should put Urban Heat Island into the mix, as open asphalt is a heat-absorber, storing a lot of incoming sunlight and releasing it all night long. So parking should become not only more permeable, but also more reflective of summer sunlight, sending it back towards the sky and out to space, the way snow does.

And, in the long run, the goal is more transit, fewer drivers, and less surface area of the city given over to parking. And, where there is parking, the more of it we can shade with plants, or solar panels, the better. Given the falling cost of panels, not a bad direction to go, and a double win: cool the cars and pavement and feed the grid, low-carbon fashion.

I am no scientist, but I chair EPRA (Eglinton Park Residents' Association) and we, in conjunction with Dr. Charles Lin (UT, retired) have been in intense discussion about Urban Heat Island, a matter of ever more urgent interest.

So a tax on commercial parking can do good. The only worry: it works against the interests of retail merchants, who compete with Amazon and other online purveyors. That is one reason that it is good to offer a benefit that coaxes customers, like summer shade in place of a baking car.

Tom Cohen  
Chair, EPRA