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September 25, 2025

Free-Floating Car-Share Program: the struggles we have faced

We ask that the Infrastructure and Environment Committee work harder at understanding and anticipating the curb-side parking pressures created with the expansion of free-floating car-share permits as they consider expanding the program further.

With the Provincial Government's ruling that new developments have 0 parking requirements, as well as the cities Greening of Surfaces strategy which turns parking lots into green space, the approval of Sixplexes in Neighbourhoods with 0 parking requirements, and now the expansion of carshare parking into areas outside of the core; finding parking curb-side has become increasingly frustrating and will only get worse. We bear you to keep that in mind.

Our neighbourhood of St.Clair Gardens has unfortunately directly felt a negative impact of the expansion of the Car-Share Program to our own access to reliable on-street parking for our personal and work vehicles, let alone car-share vehicles or our visitors's vehicles. We are none of us anti-care share. We are none of us anti-greening of spaces or extending of transit access, but we ask the Committee to hear our concerns, we who have dealt with the pressures of parking for the last year since the demolition of Carpark 246 in our neighbourhood.

Just one year ago, the neighbourhood parking lot which was in use for 50 years (15 years leased by Toronto Parking Authority) was demolished from approval by the City. This short-sighted decision, met with opposition by Resident's Association, BIA member businesses, local Community Hubs and residents alike, resulted in the loss of ZipCar and CommunAuto's designated off-street parking lot. Our neighbourhood also lost several Accessible Spaces, the

entirety of off-street parking availability for the 100 year old church and all of its parishioners and one of the only GreenP lots in the city that offered monthly memberships at an affordable rate. The City then allowed the expropriation 8 off-street parking spaces from struggling small businesses right beside the demolished lot, to profit off of.

Our community is now faced with a loss of affordable off-street, overnight parking and have to contend for minimal curb space with Communauto, Zip Car, Small Business Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles and Fleets, Personal Vehicles as well as Visitor's vehicles and shopper's vehicles for the local grocery store directly across from the Parking lot that was demolished.

One-size does not fit all when it comes to expanding the availability of carshare. Our neighbourhood has actually suffered. You took away parking supply and increased the vehicles vying for curb space. You did us no favours.

In the winter, our street was plowed TWICE. We could not get our vehicles out of our garages, and the curb-side parked vehicles were literally snowed in for a week. One Communauto Car was buried underneath a snowbank and was left for so long that its tire got flat. And yet, when PSW's came to care for our elderly neighbours, they had no where to park and on more than one occasion, had to leave completely as attempting to park had taken up the entirety of their appointment.

We hope that as you consider the expansion of this program to remember our cautionary tale and don't forget us. To those who are eagerly awaiting availability of renting a shared vehicle, we hope that your experience is more beneficial to your community than ours has been.

Sincerely,

Ruth Williams and the residents, community groups, small businesses and visitors to the St.Clair Gardens neighbourhood.