

Brenton, Terri

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Correspondence for the July 7th City Council Meeting Item 12.5

From: Sylvia Menezes Roberts

Sent: 2021/07/05 11:54 AM

To: City Clerks Office <City.ClerksOffice@brampton.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Correspondence for the July 7th City Council Meeting Item 12.5

Dear Council,

Comments regarding Item 12.5 - Committee of Council Recommendations

CW337-2021 6.4 Domestic Violence

The intimate partner violence crisis in Peel, especially Brampton is to a large degree a housing crisis, it is too expensive for people to live on their own. The cost of housing leads to people, especially women, moving in with people who are not good for them in order to stay housed. This also traps people in abusive situations, if your partner is abusive, and you depend on them for being able to afford shelter, what can you do? If they get arrested for harming you, then you can no longer afford to stay housed and you will become homeless. Housing insecurity and overcrowding also appears to be a risk factor in intimate partner violence. So you decide to leave your abusive partner, where will you go? The refuges from intimate partner violence are full, because the people in them can't afford to find a place on their own to move out, and the homeless shelters are also full, because people were priced out of the housing market, so what are you going to do, live on the street? If the City of Brampton really wants to address intimate partner violence, it has to address the severe, and worsening housing crisis.

CW338-2021 6.5 Litter

The City has a *litter* problem, it does not necessarily have a *littering* problem. The prime mover of the litter problem is not people throwing trash on the ground, it is trash bins getting full, trash piling up, and the wind scattering it, because no one wants to take responsibility for the problem. For months I took the northbound Kennedy bus, and every single week the trash bin would fill up before the trash bin was emptied, so the trash would pile up, and so, I would call in to the City to 311 to report this. It turns out that the trash bin that the City owns that has the City's number on it at the City bus stop is not the City's "job", the City has contracted it to the Region, so it is the Region's "job", but the Region contracts it to private companies so it is their "job", there is no accountability. As no one was responsible for this, there were no solutions forthcoming, eventually the trash piled up to the point that it became rank and was attracting rodents, only when I told the Region that it was attracting rodents and it had become a health hazard did anyone seem to care. In the meantime in addition to the trash piling up by the bin, the wind had also been scattering it across the area. It turns out that when an area has litter, people don't really have an issue with littering, but when an area is clean, people are actually quite hesitant to litter, because people are generally adverse to violating social norms.

it turns out, this is not an issue isolated to this bus stop, nor is it isolated to bus stop trash bins, indeed, it also extends to parks. Brampton has a lot of great parks, and the residents heavily use them, when

people are there, they sometimes do picnics or snacks, and so they have waste to dispose of, the bins get full. Because these bins are infrequently placed, but heavily used, trash accumulates, and because they are in open areas, the wind easily scatters the trash. There are two potential solutions to this a) empty bins more frequently, and b) put a second bin where the trash seems to accumulate, the latter isn't ideal, but is cheaper as the primary cost is driving to the spots to service them. When these were suggested to the Region, the answers were a) well the City isn't paying us for that, and b) people will just put household trash in the bins. I investigated b, and it turns out the issue is that we have large households, which the trash bins we have were not designed for, and people can't fit all their trash into the trash bin, the Region will also not allow people to have a second trash bin, unless they can prove some special hardship case. People should not need to prove some special hardship case for a second trash bin, such as triplets in diapers (that was the example I was offered) to some Regional apparatchik, they should simply be able to pay for it.

So lets review, the litter problem has several major causes, the Region won't allow people to get a second bin, so people put the trash in trash bins around the City to make up for the lack of capacity. The City doesn't pay for a second trash bin at heavily used locations so the trash piles up. The wind scatters the trash, making there be trash all over, looking like the City is a dump, and people are littering. Maybe you save \$5-10 per the average household per year by having the city look like a dump, but people notice stuff like this, when they see trash all over the city, and in parks, they think you are engages in profligate waste, because you can't even manage the most basic of municipal tasks, picking up the bloody trash.

CW339-2021 6.6 Micromobility

City rules currently ban the use of e-bikes on paths and trails, the idea that the City will permit electric scooters on paths and trails before allowing electric bicycles is frankly absurd. E-bikes continue to get cheaper, and sales keep going up, they make cycling much more accessible for people of all abilities (I do actually mean cycling ability, this isn't a euphemism for disability), and also make it much easier to cycle as an actual transportation tool, not just for recreation, but the City's ban on e-bikes discourages it. People are already using e-bikes on the paths and trails, there is no enforcement, the City needs to come up with workable rules, and actually apply them. E-bikes are legally able to go up to 32km/h (20 mph), and as such, bikes sold are capable of reaching those speeds, our multi-use paths were not designed for cyclists going 30 km/h, nor were the recreational trails, this is not safe for pedestrians. The City needs to come up with a plan to permit them, and also start reviewing MUPs and trails to figure out what are appropriate speeds for them, and convey this to cyclists. Because most people do not have speedometers on their bikes, the City should also look at markings so people can time themselves and figure out how fast they are going.