



Councillor Paul Ainslie

Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Government Management Committee
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

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November 20, 2017

Edyth Karwecki
General Manager
East York Town Centre
45 Overlea Blvd, Suite B24
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Ms. Karwecki,

In order to address community concerns at Guildwood Village Plaza, I have been informed that Morguard (the plaza management company), Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate, Garda Private Security Company and the Toronto Police 43 Division are working together.

I understand that there were a number of recommendations presented to Morguard from Garda Security, which the police have agreed with, to improve the physical layout and landscaping to help manage the negative behaviour at the plaza. In addition I have been informed that the police have had a discussion directly with Morguard making many of the same suggestions.

Presently, at the entrance to the plaza from Livingston Road, the cement blocks in the plaza invite a loitering area where many residents feel uncomfortable passing when trying to access the businesses. I am aware that the recommendations include adding low hostile vegetation, flowers or pot lights at this location to discourage the continuing loitering.

To encourage a positive environment a "Welcome to Guildwood Village Plaza" sign would help invite patrons to the plaza as well as reintroducing the benches along the corridor and ensuring they are placed in an area that is monitored by the security cameras providing patrons an appropriate location to sit.

The local Police also addressed the planters along the plaza by the main parking area advising that they should be cut down and have low vegetation or thorny low bushes planted. We are aware that the ones in front of Muddy Paws has already been taken care of. However the remaining planters still have quite high vegetation providing good hiding areas that also block any views to the parking or from the parking to the plaza.

During the lunch period there is a very long line outside of Tim Hortons. Presently customers are lined up straight out the door to the parking lot. This creates a barrier for other patrons to pass by. A recommendation would be for a low railing to be installed alongside the Tim Hortons, towards the Valu Mart, to direct those waiting in line and free up the walkway.

The area between the Tim Hortons and Valu Mart is another great concern.

The large tree, closer to Valu Mart needs to have the limbs trimmed to raise the site lines from the parking lot to the back of the plaza. With the planter vegetation cut down this would eliminate the sight obstructions to this area, especially since the large green utility box at this location is a good hiding space for loiterers. Another recommendation to prevent loiterers in this area is to install a rod iron fence between Tim Hortons and Valu Mart.

Finally the back of the plaza does not appear to have sufficient security cameras, seeing that this area has had a history of inviting loitering and illegal activity more cameras would assist with dissipating the activities.

Kindly follow up with my office to confirm that you are working with the Toronto Police on their recommendations and provide an update on the improvements being made to the landscaping and layout at the plaza.

Your support and attention would be much appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Ainslie', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
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