



May 1, 2024

TO: City of Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee

RE: Update on Stage 2 of the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

AGENDA ITEM: IE13.7

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. through 5. from the staff report from the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, dated April 18, 2024

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

As a follow-up to its letter to the Committee dated November 28, 2023 re Agenda Item IE9.3, the Waste Reduction Group of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) supports the recommendations contained in the subject 'Update' staff report which are directed toward reducing single-use plastics, thereby avoiding unnecessary waste.

Further, the SLNA Waste Reduction Group reiterates the recommendation from its November 28 submission that the City act immediately to ban single-use plastic items like black plastic, foam containers and cups, and plastic bags which are not recyclable, joining other cities which have taken action to address these plastics – which are among the most prevalent litter items, most often end up in landfill (often contaminating otherwise recyclable materials) and are harmful to the environment.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association's Waste Reduction Group (WRG) is an ad-hoc committee of the Association, founded in 2019, with the goal of improving the effectiveness of waste reduction efforts in the neighbourhood. The SLNA-WRG's mission includes:

- Increasing community awareness of environmental concerns and the steps that can be taken by individuals, residential buildings and local businesses to address these issues;
- Encouraging community members to rethink their consumption and disposal habits;
- Redirecting usable and recyclable materials away from landfill.

An example of the WRG's growing impact – *St. Lawrence Reduces* is an increasingly successful program developed by the SLNA-WRG and the City of Toronto's Live Green program to help local cafés, restaurants, and St. Lawrence Market vendors reduce waste and cut costs by encouraging their customers to use bring-your-own (BYO) reusables.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), incorporated in 1983, represents over 35,000 residents living in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood of Toronto. The neighbourhood – bounded by Yonge St., Queen St. E., Parliament St. and the rail corridor to the south – is a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial community adjoining the Central



Business District. It contains the oldest neighbourhood in the (now) City of Toronto, the *original ten blocks* of the Town of York (dating from 1793).

The SLNA and its WRG team support the City's efforts to reduce waste on multiple fronts. The initiatives recommended in this report can make a valuable difference in tackling single-use plastic and unnecessary disposables and the full support of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in these efforts is appreciated.

Sincerely,

p.p.


Waste Reduction Group
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Mayor Olivia Chow

Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

Councillor Colle (Vice-Chair)	Councillor McKelvie (Chair)
Councillor Morley	Councillor Pasternak
Councillor Perruzza	Councillor Saxe

City Councillors:

Councillor Malik Councillor Moise

Councillor's Staff:

Tom Davidson Edward LaRusic Bushra Mir Macy Parakh

City Managers:

Matthew Green (iec@toronto.ca)

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. L. Allen	Ms. N. Fung	Mr. K. Jackson	Mr. S. Linton
Ms. S. McMillan	Ms. T. Tenenbaum		

SLNA-WRG:

Mr. B. Leps