

# DIGIN

initiates inclusive cultural and community ideas, plans and actions that will contribute to creating and sustaining a neighbourhood that is **green, clean, safe and civil** by fostering improvements in its cultural, social, environmental, economic and physical makeup.

14 June 2012

Ms. Fiona Crean, Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
City of Toronto  
Suite 203, 375 University Avenue  
Toronto ON M5G 2J5

Re: Local Solutions Ignored, Disabled Parking Space, Bloor Street West

Dear Ms.Crean:

A number of Bloordale community members and business owners have brought a problem to my attention. I am writing this letter, as Acting Chair of community group DIG IN, in support of their efforts to remedy a local situation.

There is a disabled parking space in front of The Safehaven Project for Community Living, 1173 Bloor West. This facility provides residential and respite care to help families whose children have complex physical and developmental disabilities. This disabled spot is very inadequately marked. As a result, many residents and business customers have parked there and received \$450 parking tickets. These tickets have generated \$155,000 in revenue, according to documentation obtained via Freedom of Information requests.

We very much support the need for the disabled spot, and would like it to be utilized for its proper purpose – serving the families of disabled children, not as a revenue-generating device.

It took 1½ years for Ward 18 Councillor Ana Bailão, on behalf of the community, to get the attention of City of Toronto Transportation for the solution of adding clearer signage plus standard “disabled parking” pavement markings. Unfortunately, Transportation has recently determined to implement its own solution rather than implementing the locally-generated solution. We feel that 1) Transportation’s refusal to accept the input of local people – people who know and support the neighbourhood – is just not acceptable, and 2) that as a result, the parking space won’t serve the families of disabled children, but will continue being a revenue-generating device.

We hope that you can help change Transportation’s approach to this issue.

Yours very truly,



Ann Homan  
Chair

cc: Councillor Ana Bailao, Jutta Mason, Donna Cowan, DIG IN Listserve

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