

Staff Response to Commission Inquiry - Cleanliness of Transit System - Free Transit Newspapers

Meeting Date: November 22, 2000

Subject: Staff Response to Commission Inquiry - Cleanliness of Transit System - Free Transit Newspapers

At its meeting of September 5, 2000, the Commission received an overhead slide and video presentation from staff entitled "Cleanliness of Transit System – Free Transit Newspapers". After hearing the presentation, the Commission requested that staff respond to the following:

- Report on the possibility of installing recycling bins for cans, bottles and other recyclables at appropriate locations.

The possibility of installing recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables in the subway, was reviewed by staff. Staff do not recommend installing these bins for the following reasons:

- There is no acceptable space for these added bins given the additional newspaper boxes being installed, the station crowding and the need to keep limited the obstacles that challenge wayfinding for the visually impaired.

- Additional operating costs in labour for separating, removing, transferring and disposing of recyclable material in the subway;
- Additional operating costs in labour and material for operating a transfer station at Greenwood and Wilson Yards – the terminal points of the garbage cars; and
- Infestation problems as the disposed products would encourage a breeding ground for vermin in the subway.
- Install new newspaper recycling bins at any station in which they might be required and, in view of the free newspapers that are being distributed, ensure that there are sufficient such boxes at the high volume stations.

One hundred and fourteen (114) additional newspaper recycling bins are being installed in 26 different subway stations to address the newspaper problems in the subway.

- Review the possibility of hiring permanent staff to ensure a clean system.

Four additional Janitors have been hired effective October 2, 2000 to deal with the workload created by the additional recycling boxes. Seven temporary Janitors have been hired from

October 2, 2000 to December 22, 2000 to pick up newspaper debris at terminal, interchange and high use stations, including the subway cars.

- Review the design of current garbage cans for possible improvement.

Garbage cans within the subway are designed for safety. They weigh approximately 400 lbs. and are bolted to the floor to prevent vandals from rolling them onto the tracks. The flame tamer lids are fitted to the 25-gallon drums and are designed to limit flame spread. We have been unsuccessful in finding lids for larger drums and the added weight of the garbage could also prove problematic for the Janitors, resulting in personal injuries. It is expected that with the installation of 114 additional recycling bins, dedicated for newspapers, that overloading of our current garbage cans will be minimal. Should the addition of the 114 new recycling bins not reduce the incidents of overloading the garbage cans, then the purchase of additional garbage cans will be considered. In addition, when Bloor Station was renovated with the wider platforms, it was outfitted with garbage cans that were not standard. These garbage cans were replaced this October with 12 standard cans.

- Review the possibility of locating OMG recycling containers outside of TTC subway stations.

The possibility of adding more OMG recycling containers outside of subway stations is our preference. A commitment from the City would be required for expeditious removal and clean-up of debris. The TTC currently receives complaints from patrons when these containers, located outside some subway stations, do not receive prompt attention.

Chief General Manager

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