



Dear Friends,  
Happy to say that SPRING is finally here and much has been accomplished both at City Hall and in our community.

City Council passed the 2016 Operating and Capital Budget, which I believe to be both responsible and balanced. Inside this newsletter you will find more information about key items that may be important to you.

We have also continued to move forward on my important initiatives – a key initiative spearheaded by my office being the St. Clair Environmental Assessment (EA), which is currently in its final stages, examining ways to ease gridlock on St. Clair, between Old Weston Road and Keele Street. Once complete, the EA should offer several potential solutions to improve transportation options in the area.

Within the next few weeks, you will be receiving your MPAC property assessment, which will reflect the amount of property taxes you will pay over the next four years. I have assisted more than 12,000 homeowners with Request for Reconsideration applications OR with assessment appeals to the Assessment Review Board (ARB), resulting in thousands of dollars saved to individual homeowners over the last 12 years. Please feel free to contact my office if you need assistance.

With spring upon us and in support of our annual community revitalization efforts, I will, once again, be hosting the following events in our ward:

- Annual Environment Day
- Canada Day BBQ Celebration
- Movie Nights in the Park
- FREE Compost Give Away Days
- Community BBQ's
- Community Clean-Up Days

(Please see inside for more details on each of these events) I encourage you and your families to participate in the many events we have scheduled to kick off this spring season!

As always, your feedback is the best way of gaining a better understanding of what issues need to be tackled next in our community and across our City. I hope you will take the time to write, e-mail, or call my office to share your ideas or concerns.

As always, I look forward to "GETTING MORE THINGS DONE" for Ward 17.

Sincerely,  
  
Cesar Palacio



Cesar and residents at one of his many Community Free Compost Days. For list of 2016 Compost Dates please see page 4

### As Your City Councillor, I Led the Fight & Voted Against the Proposed 2016 Garbage Tax

In 2007, when the new garbage and recycling bins were rolled out, taxpayers were promised a **garbage rebate subsidy to keep costs neutral for taxpayers and revenue neutral for the City.**

This year, during the operating / capital budget process, City staff recommended the removal of the "garbage rebate subsidy". In other words, making home owners pay for the full amount of waste management services.

(Below is what was proposed by City staff in terms of an increase, as well as what was actually approved by City Council. I am proud to have led this fight at City Council, resulting in lower fees for homeowners.)

	Small	Medium	Large	Extra Large
Approved	\$17.76	\$115.38	\$295.14	\$411.23
Proposed	<del>\$244.77</del>	<del>\$297.14</del>	<del>\$403.55</del>	<del>\$468.08</del>

What City staff was proposing, in terms of a tax increase, was regressive and punished low / middle-income families by targeting residential property owners that have already exceeded the City's 70% waste diversion rates.

Here's what you can do to lower your garbage tax fees: **recycle and compost as much as possible and downsize your garbage bin.**

It is **unfair to penalize ONLY homeowners.** Why should they have to subsidize waste management services for apartment buildings and condominiums that are failing to meet the City's waste diversion targets. Apartment buildings and Condos must be retrofitted to ensure tenants/condo owners do their part to meet the City's waste diversion rates with strict regulations that are enforceable; homeowners are already doing their part.

A big thank you to the hundreds of residents that called, wrote, and e-mailed my office offering their support to combat this regressive tax. I want you to know that I will continue to advocate for a fiscally responsible agenda that does not require us to use regressive taxes to meet our ongoing budget constraints.

The more we do to reduce the amount of garbage that goes to the landfills, the better it is for our planet.

#### Davenport Town Hall Meeting

You're invited to a community Town Hall meeting with your local representatives: MP Julie Dzerowicz, MPP Cristina Martins, and Councillors Cesar Palacio and Ana Balaio to discuss municipal, provincial and federal issues pertaining to the Davenport Community.

Thursday, June 16th, 2016  
Wallace Emerson Community Centre (Gymnasium)  
1260 Dufferin Street  
7:00 p.m.



## Getting MORE Things Done

### 32 Decongesting St. Clair Avenue West Area – EA Study Nearing Completion

The Transportation Master Plan for the St. Clair Ave West area is nearing completion. My office will be holding a community meeting whereby the City of Toronto will be revealing which of the six options below will be recommended as the most effective in de-congesting the traffic bottleneck along St. Clair Avenue West, between Keele Street and Old Weston Rd.

- **Alternative 1:** Widening St. Clair Ave West, between Keele Street and Old Weston Road
- **Alternative 2:** Extend Gunns Road from Weston Road to Union Street
- **Alternative 3:** Connect Davenport Road to Lloyd Avenue
- **Alternative 4:** Extending Keele Street, south to meet Gunns Road
- **Alternative 5:** Extend Davenport Road, northwest to Union Street
- **Alternative 6:** Extend Davenport Road, to West Toronto Street

City Staff's recommendations will be listed in the order believed to be the most feasible and effective options.

For more information, please contact our office or go to: [www.toronto.ca/St\\_Clair\\_Avenue\\_West\\_Area\\_-\\_Transportation\\_Master\\_Plan](http://www.toronto.ca/St_Clair_Avenue_West_Area_-_Transportation_Master_Plan)



Cesar at one of his many annual FREE Compost Days



Cesar with hundreds of residents enjoying the Canada Day Celebration at Earls Court Park

### 2016 City Budget at a Glance

Thank you for your input and feedback on the 2016 City Budget that was tabled earlier this year. As a member of the City's Executive Committee, I believe I played a key role ensuring that important City programs and services remained protected in this budget.

The Operating Budget approved is \$10.1 billion for 2016 and Capital Budget for the next 10-year capital cycle for \$21 billion.

The approved Operating Budget makes significant investments in key strategic priorities: transit, public safety and poverty reduction. In addition, it maintains all current programs and services and provides funding for new services, including:

- \$8 million to aid in reducing poverty
- Enhanced cold-weather drop-in services
- Expansion of the Student Nutrition Program (This vital program ensures that children receive at least one good meal or snack a day, which is essential for learning)
- Additional funding for childcare subsidies
- Improved streetcar reliability and early Sunday morning subway service
- 57 new paramedics to meet service demands of our aging population
- 17 additional Fire Services staff for prevention, education and inspection
- \$5 million to support Arts and Culture

The approved Capital Budget allocates 75% of the funding to transit initiatives with the balance of the budget allocated to:

- Parks, Forestry, and Recreation - \$1.2 billion (6%)
- Facilities, Real Estate, Environment and Energy - \$1.1 billion (5%)
- Toronto Police Service - \$558 million (3%)

### Community Safety Forum Update:

Last fall, we welcomed Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders, local police officers, and the Unit Commanders from 11, 12, and 13 Divisions to our Community Safety Forum at the JJP Community Centre.

The forum offered local residents the opportunity to raise concerns about local safety issues that mattered to them; some of the concerns included: identity theft, break and enters, senior safety and loitering. As I have said many times before, community safety is everybody's business, I encourage you to contact Toronto Police Services if you have concerns about your safety; you can also report these issues directly to my office. Together, we can work on prevention initiatives, share tips and strategies on how to continue keeping our community safe.



Cesar hosting the annual Community Safety Forum with Police Chief Mark Saunders and the Unit Commanders from 11, 12, and 13 Division