

# Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson

## Scarborough Centre Virtual Town Hall 5

### May 14, 2020

I would like to thank everyone who participated in my Virtual Town Hall on Thursday May 14. Thanks for sharing your COVID-19 related questions, concerns, and ideas to keep our community safe, healthy and clean. Special thanks to MPP Christina Mitas for joining as our special guest to provide useful information on Provincial responses to COVID-19. Here are a few points from MPP Mitas' presentation:

- With all of the restrictions in places, it is important that we keep informed.
- We have to stay on guard to protect vulnerable populations (the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions).
- We have taken actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For example, we have stopped PSWs and Support staff from working in multiple long term care homes and have provided these workers with a subsidy program to ensure they continue to have a living wage.
- We drastically ramped up testing in the province. The Premier has stressed the importance of testing in the province and especially in our hospitals, long-term care facilities and child care centers.
- We have launched an online portal so that people may quickly access their results.
- We have implemented pandemic pay to frontline workers and have increased availability of PPEs.
- We have collaborated with partners such as Rogers and Apple to provide students with ipads with internet access and distributed laptops through school boards so that all students can proceed to learn from home through a learning portal.

Residents, let's also play our part by practising social and physical distancing, staying at home, keeping in touch with your neighbours, friends and family online or by phone. Here are some of the questions/concerns raised by residents and my responses:

#### **Question Can I get a refund on my monthly Presto Card?**

**Response:** At the present time, TTC is not providing refunds as passes are final sale. Their Executive Team is currently reviewing options for all customers, including TTC Monthly Pass holders and plan to provide a report outlining details to the TTC Board but they do not have a date as to when this will be presented given the current situation. The number to their Customer Service Office is (416-393-3030, option 6) and it's suggested that you call around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June and ask the CSR if they are any Board meetings scheduled and or request for an update regarding refunds.

**Question: How can I cancel my Presto Card?**

**Response:** Residents have the option to cancel their 12 Month Pass on PRESTO at any time, but they must cancel within the first 22 days of the month (i.e. before May 22, 2020) to avoid being charged for the next month. However, no decision has been made to waive the cancellation fees and if individuals cancel their pass before the end of the 12-month term, they may be required to pay the difference between the discounted monthly rate and the regular monthly pass rate from the start of their current 12 Month Pass.

**Question: I noticed that Michael Thompson attended a virtual meeting for the Toronto Music Advisory Committee. I know that Toronto has a vibrant live music scene. Do we have to wait until the end of COVID before we can enjoy a live concert again? I know that Toronto has a vibrant live music scene. Do we have to wait until the end of COVID before we can enjoy a live concert again?**

**Response:** All mass events and meetings are cancelled until June 30. The end date for the cancellation period will be reviewed every two weeks and may be extended. To help support Toronto artists and lift the spirits of residents during this outbreak, the City of Toronto, in partnership with Unison Benevolent Fund, is moving its City Hall Live performance program online. Since 2016, local artists have performed on Nathan Phillips Square as part of City Hall Live's music series to provide paid performance opportunities for Toronto musicians across all genres. To date, City Hall Live has showcased more than 150 local artists, working with numerous Toronto music organizations, festivals and events.

Under the necessary restrictions in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, artists will take their show online. The first City Hall Live Online livestreamed event is today, April 16 at noon and will feature The Weather Station. The series will run Monday through Friday from noon to 1 p.m., with two shows per day until the end of June. More than 100 local artists will be directly compensated for 30-minute performances from their homes, livestreamed via Facebook.

**Question: I participated in the Brown Bin Pilot for 2 years and filled out a survey last year for the City singing the praises of this program and would like to know the outcome. I would really like to see the brown bins introduced to the yard waste collection service. Is there an update on the City's Yard Waste Bin Pilot Completion & Bin Pickup?**

**Response:** The pilot is now complete and Solid Waste Management Services will be coming to pick up the bin on one of your upcoming yard waste collections days. Please continue to use the bin until it is picked up. It should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your yard waste collection day. Once your bin has been picked up, please use a kraft bag or rigid open-top container for yard waste. Brush and branches should be secured in bundles no longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet), no wider than 0.6 metres (two feet) and no heavier than 20 kilograms (44 lbs).

**Question:** I don't know if you have anyone keeping track of local wildlife, but in Birkdale park there are some coy-wolfs or coyotes. I saw one laying down while walking my dogs thought it was a deer stopped to take a picture and it turned its head. Not a deer for sure. It ignored me, so it may have been guarding a den with a female and cubs. But having small dogs, I got out of there as fast as my short legs would take me. What can your office do to help?

**Response:** Our office has been made aware that there has been sightings of more coyotes in the Birkdale Ravine. In mid-April our office requested for Parks staff to install additional signage reminding park goers to keep a distance from wildlife. Our office will notify Animal Services of the sighting you had. You could also reach Animal Services directly by email at [animalservices@toronto.ca](mailto:animalservices@toronto.ca).

**Question:** My property manager has started putting up signs saying that they are not allowing delivery workers to go door-to-door. I'm a senior and need to have my groceries delivered to me as it is not safe for me to wait with others in the lobby to pick up groceries each time. Is my property management allowed to do this?

**Response:** Given that this impacts resident's ability to self-isolate in their own unit, the property management may be asked by a Municipal Licensing and Standards officer to allow for door-to-door pickups. Residents have the ability to make non-compliance reports online at [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) or call my office at 416-397-9274.

**Question:** What are Quiet Streets under the ActiveTO Plan?

**Response:** ActiveTO is about making sure people have space to get around while respecting physical distancing. Locations are being prioritized by several factors including, but not limited to, population density, equity, access to greenspace, car ownership rates, and traffic volumes. Calming local streets will allow local residents to maintain physical distancing within their communities through the installation of signage and temporary barricades to encourage slow, local vehicle access only.

Suggested Quiet Street locations in each ward were initially identified using Quiet Street and signed routes from previous Council adopted plans including the 2019 Cycling Network Plan. Priority routes were then selected for areas where there is a lack of park space or, conversely, are close to large parks and would help alleviate congestion in the parks themselves, particularly in high density neighborhoods. Network connectivity was also reviewed and routes were selected to support safe cycling and walking connections on essential trip routes, particularly along tower renewal corridors and within neighbourhood improvement areas.

Careful analysis of the above criteria has resulted in the following route recommendations for your Ward:

Street	From	To	Length
Trudelle St	Danforth Rd	Cedar Brae Blvd	2.5 km
Cedar Brae Blvd	Trudelle St	Bellamy Rd N	
Dundalk Dr	Ellesmere Rd	Antrim Cres	1.5 km
Antrim Cres	Kennedy Rd	End of Street	

**Question: Is there an update on the Maryvale Library?**

**Response:** The Maryvale Library expansion to 11, 000 square feet has been approved. The library will feature a teen zone, technology zone and studio recording area. There will be dedicated staff to assist young people and seniors. It will also feature a variety of books meeting room facilities and computers.

There is an opportunity for residents to complete an online survey to provide their feedback on the library. Please click the link below:

<https://cotsurvey.chkmt.com/MaryvaleBranchExpansion>

**Next Virtual Town Hall- May 21, 2020**

The Virtual Town Halls will be held this and every Thursday from 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm (until further notice), to discuss how we can stay safe and play our part in keeping each other healthy and our strong. This is also an opportunity for you to voice your concerns, provide feedback and share your ideas.

Residents are encouraged to submit their questions or any pressing issue/s via email at [councillor\\_thompson@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_thompson@toronto.ca) or by Instagram at @councillor\_thompson or Twitter @Thompson\_37, no later than the Wednesday before each meeting at 5:00 PM.

To join the meeting, register on Eventbrite @deputymayorvirtualtownhall and you will receive the WebEx link and meeting ID. If you do not receive the link by Wednesday evening at 5:00pm of each week, please contact my office at 416-397-9274 or by email at [councillor\\_thompson@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_thompson@toronto.ca).