

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 2, 2009**

### **ENSURING GREATER PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLIST SAFETY AT THE INTERSECTION OF WOODBRIDGE AVENUE, WALLACE STREET, AND A PRIVATE LANEWAY WARD 2**

#### **Recommendation:**

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that appropriate staff be directed to investigate and implement, as necessary measures to improve the safe flow of all forms of traffic in the vicinity of the intersection of Woodbridge Avenue, Wallace Street, and the laneway running north from Woodbridge Avenue between the Inkerman Block and Primavera 2000 Florists.

#### **Economic Impact**

The operating budget will be impacted minimally, to fund any suggested low-cost improvements

#### **Communications Plan**

The ward councillor will issue a press release, as this initiative is of such limited interest a media release from Corporate Communications is not called for.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Sidewalks are City property, and for that reason the City has an interest in the safety of those who use them, whether as pedestrians or bicyclists. Where conditions on abutting private property have a negative impact on the safety of those using City sidewalks, the normal expectation is that actions will be taken by the private property owner to rectify the situation. However, it would appear that any leverage the City might have had in correcting the situation (as described below) at this location is now gone, as the problem was not anticipated when approvals were given for the abutting condominium development.

With the development of the condominium block abutting the north and east sides of the Inkerman Block, there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of vehicular traffic approaching Woodbridge Avenue from the private laneway between the Block and the premises of Primavera 2000 Florists (the former Royal Bank building). The geometrics of this interface with Woodbridge Avenue, and Wallace Street, directly to the south, are clearly problematic.

A stop sign facing motorists approaching Woodbridge Avenue from the laneway is set an estimated 10 m from the corner of the florist's building. Motorists respecting the import of the sign are thus stopping at such a distance from Woodbridge Avenue that they have only a very limited view of the intersection. As they proceed forward in pursuit of a better view, they must pass the corner of the florist's shop on the right. On several occasions, these motorists have encountered bicyclists coming---at high speed---along the sidewalk that slopes down past the front of the florist's shop.

Two suggestions present themselves as possible solutions to this problem: (1) the transfer of the stop sign to a location closer to the corner of the building, giving motorists a better view of the entire intersection, and (2) the placing of a traffic mirror---either at the corner of the Inkerman Block or of the Primavera 2000 building, so that motorists will be able, literally, to see "around the corner" and determine if any pedestrians or, more importantly, bicyclists are coming down the slope from Kipling Avenue, with no

expectation that a vehicle may be entering the intersection from the laneway.

The ward councillor and staff (including the Director of Engineering Services) have visited the site and concur that the proposed solution is appropriate, but as it will require the concurrence of one or more of the abutting landowners, Council direction has been requested by staff, prompting this recommendation.

**Regional Implications:**

None

**Attachment:**

Sketch of the immediate area

**Conclusion:**

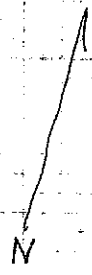
It is appropriate that the City take the initiative in addressing a safety problem at a local intersection, as the solution will require the concurrence of two abutting landowners, one of whose properties includes the private laneway in question.

**Report prepared by:**

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA  
Councillor - Ward 2



PRIVATE  
LANEWAY

PRIMAVERA 2000

INKERMAN BLOCK

← STOP SIGN

● POSSIBLE SITES  
FOR MIRROR(S) ●

SIDEWALK

SIDEWALK

DOWNLOPE

WOODBRIDGE AVENUE

SIDEWALK

SIDEWALK

WALLACE  
STREET

HENDERSON'S  
PHARMACY

MEDICAL  
CENTRE