



## REFERRAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY AND ANSWER

### Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station

<b>Date:</b>	May 14, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Government Management Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All

### City Council Decision

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City Council, on May 8 and 9, 2012, referred Administrative Inquiry IA23.2 from Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21, St. Paul's, regarding the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station and Answer IA23.2a from the City Manager, to the Government Management Committee for consideration.

### Summary

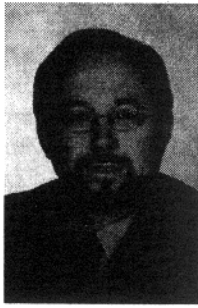
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Councillor Joe Mihevc has submitted the following Administrative Inquiry:

"I am submitting this Administrative Inquiry (under Municipal Code S27-61) to obtain information related to the bike station as part of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project. It is my understanding that the bicycle station has been dropped from the plans of the revitalization project. My inquiries are:

1. When was the bicycle station portion of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project dropped from the project?
2. Why was this important piece of cycling infrastructure dropped from the planning of the revitalization project?
3. Further, why was the cancellation of the bicycle station not reported on at Council?
4. At this point, what can be done to get the plans reopened and to get the implementation of the bicycle station back on track?

Given the importance of these issues, I would appreciate detailed answers to each of the questions."



Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Toronto City Hall  
St. Paul's West  
Ward 21

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
SECRETARIAT SECTION

2012 APR 19 P 3:47

April 18, 2012

Ulli Watkiss  
City Clerk  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, Ont. M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss,

**RE: An Inquiry on the status of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station**

I am submitting this Administrative Inquiry (under Municipal Code S27-61) to obtain information related to the bike station as part of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project. It is my understanding that the bicycle station has been dropped from the plans of the revitalization project. My inquiries are:

- 1) When was the bicycle station portion of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project dropped from the project?
- 2) Why was this important piece of cycling infrastructure dropped from the planning of the revitalization project?
- 3) Further, why was the cancellation of the bicycle station not reported on at Council?
- 4) At this point, what can be done to get the plans reopened and to get the implementation of the bicycle station back on track?

Given the importance of these issues, I would appreciate detailed answers to each of the questions.

Sincerely,

Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Ward 21, St. Paul's West

## ANSWER TO INQUIRY



Joseph P. Pennachetti  
City Manager

City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
East Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

CITY OF TORONTO  
STAT. SERVICE  
Tel: 416-392-1827  
jpennac@toronto.ca  
www.toronto.ca

May 1, 2012

Ms. Ulli Watkiss  
City Clerk  
City of Toronto  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower  
Toronto City Hall  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

This letter is in response to the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Joe Mihevc dated April 18, 2012 entitled "An inquiry on the status of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station."

**1. When was the bicycle station portion of the Nathan Phillips Square (NPS) Revitalization Project dropped from the project?**

Transportation Services made the decision not to proceed with construction of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station in July 2011.

**2. Why was this important piece of cycling infrastructure dropped from the planning of the revitalization project?**

The Bike Station design was completed through the design process for the NPS Revitalization Project. The construction of the Bike Station would have occupied 24 car parking spaces in the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) underground garage. The Bike Station was planned on the assumption that the Income Sharing Agreement between TPA and the City would be amended to reflect the loss of revenue from these parking spaces. In early 2011, Transportation Services and TPA drafted a Memorandum of Understanding, in consultation with City Legal and Financial Planning, to set out the roles and responsibilities for the establishment and operation of the Bike Station within the TPA underground garage. During the review of the Memorandum of Understanding, Financial Planning staff advised that "the Income Sharing Agreement should not be amended for service delivery issues" such as the Bike Station. They further advised that "Transportation Services should be funding the cost of the service delivery by way of a budget for that purpose, including whatever rent is required for the spaces."

The estimated cost to compensate the Toronto Parking Authority for 24 parking spaces at market value is approximately \$70,000 per year. This would have significantly increased the annual operating cost for the Bike Station and Transportation Services had not budgeted for this additional cost. In spring 2011, Transportation Services was focused on delivering the 10 percent reduction target for the 2012 Operating Budget and, therefore, could not justify an operating budget increase for the Bike Station.

**3. Further, why was the cancellation of the bicycle station not reported on at Council?**

Transportation Services considered the decision to be a deferral of the Bike Station rather than a cancellation. The design has been completed and construction could be undertaken in the future when the operating budget pressure could be justified. Transportation Services currently operates one Bike Station at Union Station (79 bicycle spaces) and there are several other Bike Stations in various stages of design and construction. Given the operating pressures facing the Division, Transportation Services

felt it was prudent to complete and operate these additional Bike Stations before constructing the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station.

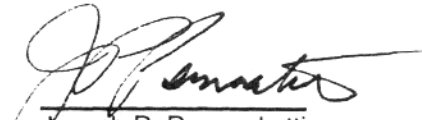
The additional Bike Stations include:

- Victoria Park Subway Station – opening May 2012 (52 bicycle spaces)
- Pape Subway Station – opening 2013 (50 bicycle spaces)
- Union Station Revitalization – opening 2013 (220 additional bicycle spaces)
- Finch West Subway Station – 2014-15 (80 bicycle spaces)

**4. At this point, what can be done to get the plans reopened and to get the implementation of the bicycle station back on track?**

The completion of the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project does not preclude the potential future construction of the Bike Station within the TPA underground garage. Transportation Services will re-evaluate the economic viability of the Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station based on the experience gained operating the existing Union Station facility and the new Bike Stations which will come into operation over the next two years. The project could be re-initiated if Transportation Services determines that the NPS Bike Station is economically viable with the additional \$70,000 "rent" associated with compensating TPA for the loss of parking revenue.

Yours truly,



Joseph P. Pennachetti  
City Manager

**Marilyn Toft - City Hall Bike Station - My comments for 2012.IA23.2 on May 8, 2012 City Council**

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**From:** Michael Black <michaelblack@sympatico.ca>  
**To:** <clerk@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** 5/3/2012 2:11 PM  
**Subject:** City Hall Bike Station - My comments for 2012.IA23.2 on May 8, 2012 City Council  
**CC:** Matlow Josh <councillor\_matlow@toronto.ca>, Mihevc Joe <councillor\_mihevc@toronto.ca>, Gosnell Beth <bgosnel@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_debaeremaeker@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_vaughan@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_fletcher@toronto.ca>, Wong-Tam Kristyn <councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca>

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 8, 2012 City Council meeting on item 2012.IA23.2, Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

I am extremely concerned that the city may be dropping the bike station from its Nathan Phillips Square revitalization plans. Cyclists who choose to regularly ride their bicycles to City Hall deserve first class parking facilities. The plans for the particular station at City Hall had included showers and change facilities, the presence of which can be a decisive factor in determining whether people decide to cycle during the summer heat. A properly designed bike station will cost a mere fraction of the millions of dollars the city has already spent on underground parking for automobiles.

The prototype facility at Union Station has proven the soundness of the Bike Station concept. I would like to see my tax dollars directed to parking at New City Hall that is:

1. cost efficient
2. space efficient
3. secure
4. safe (i.e., users pose minimal risk to others of fatal collisions)
5. environmentally friendly
6. promotes fitness
7. and is conducive to proper levels of personal hygiene

A bike station, as originally designed in the Nathan Phillips Revitalization plan, would fulfill all of these criteria. The existing below-grade car parking facilities do not. Bike parking is lean; car parking is gravy.

Council has a chance to build a bike parking/ shower combination which will set a stellar example to the private sector. Don't pass it by.

Yours truly,

Michael Black

**TCU22** - the Toronto Cyclists Union in Ward 22

33 Davisville Avenue

No. 1403

Toronto, Ontario

M4S 2Y9

(416) 487-0808

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**Marilyn Toft - City Hall Bike Station - My comments for 2012.IA23.2 on May 8, 2012 City Council**


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**From:** "Wilmar Kortleever" <wilmar@kortleever.com>  
**To:** <clerk@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** 5/4/2012 12:19 PM  
**Subject:** City Hall Bike Station - My comments for 2012.IA23.2 on May 8, 2012 City Council  
**CC:** "Matlow Josh" <councillor\_matlow@toronto.ca>, "Mihevc Joe" <councillor\_mihevc@toronto.ca>, "Gosnell Beth" <bgosnel@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_debaeremaeker@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_vaughan@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_fletcher@toronto.ca>, "Wong-Tam Kristyn" <councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_parker@toronto.ca>

Dear Sir/Madam's, Mr/Mrs City Clerk,

As so eloquently worded by somebody whose message got forwarded to me: Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 8, 2012 City Council meeting on item 2012.IA23.2, Nathan Phillips Square Bike Station

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## **Marilyn Toft - Re: Bike parking at Nathan Phillips Square**

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**From:** Jacqueline Czajka  
**To:** gwilkitai@rogers.com  
**Date:** 5/4/2012 3:26 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Bike parking at Nathan Phillips Square  
**CC:** Clerk

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2012 MAY -7 A 7:48

Hello Georgina,

Thank you for your comments on item IA 23.2. I have copied the City Clerk on this email with the request that your comments be added to the Tuesday May 8th Council agenda.

Thank you,  
Jackie

**Jacqueline Czajka**  
Policy and Communications Assistant  
Councillor Jaye Robinson  
Ward 25 - Don Valley West

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite A12  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

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>>> "gwilkitai@rogers.com" <gwilkitai@rogers.com> 5/4/2012 1:00 pm >>>

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A bike station, as originally designed in the Nathan Phillips Revitalization plan, would fulfill all of these criteria. The existing below-grade car parking facilities do not. Council has a chance to build a bike parking/ shower combination which will set a stellar example to the private sector. Don't pass it by.

Thank you

Georgina Wilcock