

January 21, 2000

**To: Policy and Finance Committee**

**From: Michael Walker  
Councillor – North Toronto**

**Subject: Parking Enforcement Unit – Accountability and Organization**

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**Recommendation:**

That the Toronto Police Services Board in consultation with City Staff be requested to report on the feasibility of consolidating the City's Parking Enforcement Units with the Police Divisions

**Background:**

The current structures of our Parking Enforcement operations limits accessibility to the public and is incongruous with other Police operations in the City of Toronto. The Toronto Star article of January 10, 2000 highlights this fact (see Attached).

I have received numerous complaints during the last two years and I am growing more concerned with what seems to be a "rogue division" that lacks accountability to local citizens. In particular, the lack of knowledge that parking enforcement officials have of local parking regulations and problems and the relation of permit parking to other traffic regulations is of great concern. I receive complaints on a regular basis from permit holders who have been ticketed on their own street. When I attempt to address these improper tickets I am given a "run-around" and usually told that the only recourse for the constituent is to go to court. This response is unacceptable and unfair because the easiest action for the constituent to take is to pay the improper fine since the costs of trying to get it overturned are often much higher. Where is the justice in that?

I would like to know if there is any way to discipline those officers who seem to have propensities to handing out improper or erroneous tickets. Certainly human error is inevitable, but when a number of complaints are received about the same officer it would appear there is a disregard for what is good for the City and its' ratepayers and businesses.

Parking can be, but is not always a black-and-white issue. It is an important part of community policing and traffic flow management, but it also speaks to the livability of our City. For example, the Police issuing tickets (at a Councillor's request) on residential streets under the 3-hour parking maximum in the middle of the night when only the residents are parking on their community streets. Meanwhile when the resident comes home at 5:00 in the afternoon, he or she can't park because of the amount of long-term commuter parking occurring on their street.

I suggest that bringing the authority of Parking Enforcement back to the individual Police Divisions to complete the practice of "community policing" and aligning them more closely with the Police would increase transparency, accountability and accessibility to the public. This review of where and how Parking Enforcement should be initiated as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Walker  
Councillor - North Toronto

Attachment  
JCP