



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 6th 2020

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 31 2020
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Thornton-Joe
Subject: Newspaper boxes in Downtown

BACKGROUND

Mayor and Council received a letter from the DVBA regarding newspaper and magazine boxes in the downtown. It was expressed at the DVBA Board meeting that many of the boxes are:

1. In Disrepair
2. Unused
3. Unlicenced

With use of the internet and libraries, these boxes are no longer needed and most are often empty or filled with garbage (See attached photos). Additionally, there is no fee for use of public space and no licensing regime. Companies are benefitting from public space without paying for it, including using boxes for advertising, whereas small business owners have to pay a fee for sandwich boards and also must receive a licence. The boxes clutter our downtown streets and detract from a high quality public realm.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request that staff ask the companies to remove newspaper boxes from city-owned property and if they do not, that staff remove the boxes off of public property.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe

List of Attachments:

- Attachment A: Letter from the DVBA dated July 17, 2020
- Attachment B: Photographs