

July 18, 2007

Mr. William Blair
Chief of Police
Toronto Police Service
40 College Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Dear Chief Blair:

At the May 14, 2007 meeting of the Toronto Public Library Board, the attached Notice of Motion was adopted by the Board concerning a Toronto Police Service surveillance camera in close proximity to the Malvern Branch of the Toronto Public Library on Sewells Road at Brenyan Way.

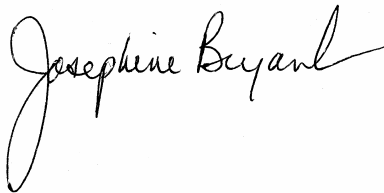
The Board has requested that Library staff consult with the Toronto Police Service on the following issues:

- ways to minimize the impact of police surveillance cameras on users of the Malvern Branch, including the possibility of removing or selecting an alternative location for the camera in closest proximity to the Malvern Branch;
- strategies for working with the Toronto Police Service to enhance the safety of Toronto Public Library branches and areas in close proximity to branches while being consistent with the strategic plan and service priorities of the Toronto Public Library.

Library staff has also been requested to report to the Board prior to the completion of the Toronto Police Service CCTV pilot project on use of the Malvern Branch during the course of the pilot project relative to use prior to the pilot project.

We will be contacting Malvern area police representatives to discuss the issues raised by the Library Board. I would welcome any additional information that your office would be able to supply concerning these issues. As always, the cooperation of the Toronto Police Service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

/nrm

Attachment

Toronto Public Library Board Meeting – May 14, 2007

Minute No. 07-088

Notice of Motion – Police Surveillance Camera in Close Proximity to the Malvern Branch

Moved in amendment by A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler, seconded by A. Decter, and carried:

“**WHEREAS** the City of Toronto has designated 13 priority neighbourhoods, of which Malvern is one; and

WHEREAS the Toronto Public Library strategic plan includes supporting low income neighbourhoods (including the 13 priority neighbourhoods), which has resulted in programs and services that work in concert with the City of Toronto’s Community Safety Plan; and

WHEREAS youth and newcomers are a priority within the Toronto Public Library’s 2004-2007 strategic plan and in the City of Toronto’s Community Safety Plan; and

WHEREAS significant program and capital investments in the Malvern Branch have resulted in increased library usage that confirms its growing importance to the Malvern community; and

WHEREAS the Toronto Police Service has recently installed a Closed Circuit Television surveillance camera in close proximity to the Malvern Branch as part of a pilot project that some youth in the Malvern community have objected to;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff consult with the Toronto Police Service and report to the Board on ways to minimize the impact of police surveillance cameras on users of the Malvern Branch, including the possibility of removing or selecting an alternative location for the camera in closest proximity to the Malvern Branch; and

THAT staff consult with the Toronto Police Service and report to the Board on strategies for working with the Toronto Police Service to enhance the safety of Toronto Public Library branches and areas in close proximity to branches while being consistent with the strategic plan and service priorities of the Toronto Public Library; and

THAT staff report to the Board prior to the completion of the Toronto Police Service CCTV pilot project on use of the Malvern Branch during the course of the pilot project relative to use prior to the pilot project, including participation in programs offered at the Malvern Branch, in-library use, information requests and visits; and

THAT staff survey Malvern Branch staff and patrons, including youth and newcomers, to understand how they feel about video surveillance, and report those findings to the Board.