

WCC Update – February 2, 2007

Murray McLeod

On the matter of the Air-Rail-Link, we are now in receipt of a letter from Dalton McGuinty to Alan Tonks, advising that David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, is now the minister dealing with our concerns on the Terms of Reference for the EA. We had previously dealt with Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, and we have written to her asking for clarification of roles. We await her response.

The letter from the Premier is on our website – www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca .

Last night's all-candidate's meeting was a success, and thanks to those of you who attended.

However, a word of explanation regarding the apparent 'heavy handed' tactics of Metro's finest, concerning the 5th, unannounced candidate.

We had been advised by several people that the 5th candidate, Kevin Mark Clarke, a man who claims to be a homeless person and who runs for every office, was extremely disruptive to a previous all-candidates' meeting at Chaminade School on Queen's Drive. According to reports, he would not be cooperative and when organizers there tried to usher him to a seat, he alleged assault.

We had previously only invited the candidates who were declared candidates at the time we had to set up the meeting. That was the four party-based candidates. Five other candidates listed as independent have recently been added to the list. We could not invite them at this late date. We did not want disruptions to our meeting, so we asked 31 Division to be available to us should it be needed.

Mr. Clarke did arrive, during Ms. Albanese's opening remarks, and proceeded in a white robe onto the stage. Police officers quietly intervened, as we had asked. When the other candidates indicated their willingness to allow him to share the stage with them, (and several audience members shouted for him to be allowed) I instructed the officers to ask him to abide by the rules, which he did. He then removed his robe, joined the others on the stage, and was, for the most part, abiding by the rules, and added some comic relief to what for some is not an exciting event.

So, despite the appearances, the police acted exactly as we asked, and did not harass or abuse Mr. Clarke in any way. In fact, I believe their calm presence was a factor in the relatively uneventful proceedings, and I wish to thank them for their efforts.

Mike Sullivan
Chair
Weston Community Coalition