

# Ana Bailão

City Councillor for Ward 18

Committed to  
our Community



Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

## **Meeting Promises, Looking forward**

Dear friends,

As a long-time resident, volunteer and neighbour in the Davenport area, it is a pleasure to serve Ward 18 residents in a new capacity as Councillor. I have been able to bring together my experience as a member of many local community groups and my background in the private sector to enrich this new role as City Councillor.

Living in Davenport, one cannot help but remark its uniqueness. It is rich with a wide mix of cultural heritages; it is an incubator for small business and is a blooming destination for the arts, entertainment and local shops. As a community, we have all the necessities to become an ever stronger and more vibrant Toronto neighbourhood. To do so, however, we must plan carefully and considerately for the future.

My plan for Ward 18 starts with protecting our important public services and continuing to invest in those enterprises of art and culture which have benefited our community so significantly. We must also secure more childcare spaces for our young families to succeed and expand our City's affordable housing service.

Developing effective transit solutions is also critical as the City grows. We must truly accept the concept of cooperating transit options and afford respect and space for all road users. Our streets are where we shop, walk and cycle; they are not highways to other parts of the city.

As I stressed in my campaign, communication is central to the success of Ward 18. From weekly community office hours, issue-focused town halls, and regular newsletters, I

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am using a variety of methods to protect community interests, keep constituents informed and ensure that Davenport residents always have a voice at City Hall. I invite all residents to visit me at the Abrigo Centre located in the Dufferin Mall from 10am to 12pm every Saturday to answer questions and address concerns.

I would also like to emphasize that no time is being wasted as we move quickly to reach these ambitious goals. My community office hours are well underway and January 15th marked my first public town hall to discuss the budget. I am also pleased to have been able to deliver so quickly on a central campaign promise to restore parking on Dundas Street and City planners have already begun studying the designs and feasibility of continuing the expansion of the bicycle Railpath south of Dundas. Likewise, I have been in contact with City Recreation and numerous community groups to create more locations, opportunities and programs for our youth and plans are currently in place to expand the number of daycare spaces in our Ward.

I look forward to the many exciting projects that we can accomplish working together over the next four years.

Sincerely,



**Ana Bailão**  
City Councillor,  
Ward 18, Davenport

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## **2011 Budget Approved**

As Toronto continues to face the significant costs of the economic downturn, the approval of the 2011 Toronto City Budget was a critical time to make responsible financial decisions toward Toronto's emerging economic stability.

During the recent municipal election, Toronto residents sent a clear message to city officials: "we

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- » [Business Services](#)
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- » [Parks and Recreation Department](#)
- » [Toronto Community Housing](#)
- » [Toronto Cycling Committee](#)
- » [Toronto Forms online](#)
- » [Toronto Maps](#)
- » [Toronto Youth Cabinet](#)
- » [Toronto Transit Commission](#)
- » [Toronto Police Service](#)
- » [Toronto Police - 11 Division](#)
- » [Toronto Police - 14 Division](#)
- » [Toronto Fire Services](#)
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#### **Ontario Government**

- » [Ontario Government](#)
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**New and updated  
BIA Websites**

value our public services and want them delivered more efficiently and more affordably."

Guaranteed in Toronto's 2011 budget, is a zero percent tax increase. I believe that this tax freeze is symbolic – showing Toronto residents that their representatives at City Hall are listening. As elected representatives, we have heard your concerns about financial responsibility and the need to control spending, and we are acting on these concerns.

With the recent economic recession, around the world and across Canada, cities have been on the front lines dealing with the many symptoms of this crisis – Toronto among them. During these last few years, many hard working Torontonians have had to struggle with job loss, shrunken small business revenue, and higher costs of living. It is these individuals, as well as our seniors and low-income families, that will benefit from the zero percent tax increase proposed in this budget.

With Toronto's current economic struggles, and many consecutive years of property tax increases, the 2011 property tax freeze is an opportunity to stop, take inventory of what we have, what we need for the future, and what new ideas and new strategies – such as the planned City-wide financial review – we can use to provide more with less.

I was unable to support all aspects of the 2011 budget, however, and was very disappointed that a number of important motions did not receive Council approval.

I voted in favour of an unsuccessful motion to continue support for the Tenant Defence Fund, for the valuable service this group provides in protecting the rights of renters – which includes some of our City's most marginalized groups. I also voted in favour of maintaining Toronto's Urban Affairs Library, a library which has received international recognition as an important educational resource for our city.

I was also disappointed with the 2011 Water Budget, which included cutting the Drain Grant program. The

Please be advised that the following Ward 18 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) have updated their websites. The members of these BIAs have put a lot of effort into creating these websites, and I encourage you to visit them at your convenience.

[Little Portugal BIA](#)

[Bloorcourt BIA](#)

[Dundas West BIA](#)

[Bloordale BIA](#)

Water Budget also cut water efficiency programs that were both financially responsible in lowering City costs, as well as important environmental initiatives. For these reasons I could not vote in favour of this budget.

As we look forward toward 2012, many difficult decisions will have to be made. With rising costs, it is inevitable that the City will have to reflect these rising costs in property taxes and new revenue sources to maintain the many services that Toronto residents rely on. With new approaches and new review process, however, we can continue to offer the services that Torontonians need, as cost effectively as possible.

This year, however, it was important that property taxes were frozen to demonstrate to Toronto residents that their representatives at City Hall are working hard to develop sustainable solutions to Toronto's financial situation before come to residents with yet another tax increase. With the rising costs of fuel, food and utilities, I am pleased to be able to provide one price that will not change.

As I heard so often during my campaign, representatives have an obligation to both protect public services and ensure these services are achieved efficiently and affordably. When it comes to services, less is not more, and we must continue to provide high-quality, diverse, and accessible services to Toronto Residents. For our City to continue to operate responsibly, however, and address Toronto's growing deficit, we must learn to provide more with less.

I look forward to continuing to work with residents, City staff and fellow Councillors as we move towards more sustainable City budgets, so that we can continue to meet the needs of Torontonians, now and into the future.

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***Dundas Parking receives unanimous approval at Council and Committee***

*It was been nearly one year since Dundas Street West lost 70 parking spaces. As a direct result, local businesses experienced significant losses in sales, "Pay and Display" machines were moved to residential streets, and thousands of customers and residents have been hit with the \$60 "No-Standing" fee.*

*Since this decision was first made there has been strong opposition from local business owners and residents. This opposition was clear during the recent fall election and I made it a central promise in my campaign to restore the parking spaces lost on Dundas Street.*

*Since taking office in December I have worked determinately to have this goal realised. After numerous meetings with City staff, and discussions with fellow Councillors, the motion to restore parking on Dundas was approved first at Community Council on January 18th, then at City Council this past February 8th.*

*Today, I am please to return to you with this central campaign promise fulfilled. My office has received official notice that Transportation Services has completed the work of returning Dundas Parking and I was privileged to be in attendance while parking machines were unveiled.*

*Beginning February 10th, all "No Standing Zone" prohibition signs on Dundas Street between Landsdowne and Dovercourt were removed. Furthermore, all "Pay and Display" devices have been removed from adjoining residential streets and returned to Dundas Street. This work order has effectively return Dundas Street to its original parking situation before the 2008 decision that changed the street's parking regulations.*

*Residents and business owners voiced their concerns and they were heard. This is the first of many projects I have begun and will continue to work hard on, to ensure that the concerns of Davenport residents are heard at City Hall.*

*Thank you again for your support of this issue and I look forward to the many other projects we can accomplish while working together over the next four years.*

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### **Traffic Concerns on Dufferin Street**

The recent incident involving a student of Alexander Muir School who was struck by a car has brought the traffic situation on Dufferin Street to the forefront, and

many concerned parents and residents have subsequently contacted me with their concerns.

I would like to inform you that this situation has been a top priority for my office and I would like to outline the steps I have taken in order to promptly address this matter.

- After a meeting with Gary Welsh, General Manager for Transportation Services on December 3rd in which I raised the issue, I was shortly informed by staff that a traffic signal review at Dufferin/Florence in 2004 and 2006 did not did not warrant the installation.
- Due to the opening of the Dufferin Jog, I strongly insisted that another investigation into traffic calming measures continue immediately and that the location of TTC stops and Pedestrian Crossovers along Dufferin Street be taken into account in order to create an overall solution and improve pedestrian safety on Dufferin Street.
- As an immediate measure to slow traffic while Transportation Services conducts their investigation, I have asked 14 Division's to organize regular speed patrols in the area.
- On my insistence, City Staff is currently undertaking a safety audit at Florence Street, Gordon Street, and Bank Street. This includes pedestrian crossing volumes, vehicular volume, and speed profile on Dufferin Street, after which they will report the findings and recommendations back to me.
- Once these results are made available to me, I will be organizing a community meeting in May to bring the results of this investigation and proposal to the local community.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances of last month's traffic accident; I would like to reassure you that I am moving quickly to ensure that this situation is not repeated. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about other areas where traffic is unsafe,

please contact my office. I appreciate your support in promoting road safety in our area.

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## ***Standing Room Only – Hundreds show up to protest cuts to Settlement Services***

On January 27th I hosted a press conference at City Hall to protest the impending federal cuts to immigrant settlement centres. The federal government plans to cut \$53 million across the country in funding for agencies that help new immigrants become self-sufficient. The cuts will take effect at the end of March. Roughly 85 per cent of the cuts are in Ontario with a disproportionate amount affecting the centres in Toronto.

These cuts threaten the very existence of agencies that service the new Canadians who live Ward 18. The Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre and the South Asian Women Centre are two exemplary examples of how settlement agencies operate and make new Canadians feel welcome in their new surroundings.

In a letter I sent to the Citizenship and Immigration Minister I urged him to strongly reconsider the government's decision to cut funding from settlement services. I told him that I fear that these cuts will deprive generations of new Canadians and limit their potential of giving back to the rich cultural mosaic that is Canada.

I want to thank my Council colleagues and the various Members of Parliament who showed up to support this matter. I also want to thank the security guards who had to work extra hard to divert people to the council chambers as the size of the crowd threatened to exceed the fire code's allowable occupancy numbers.

### ***Online Info***

Find more information about the loss of federal funding to settlement services, visit:

[www.RewindtheCuts.ca](http://www.RewindtheCuts.ca)

### ***Community Office Hours***

I am always interested in hearing your concerns or comments and I invite you to visit me during my weekly community office hours. Every Saturday I am available from 10am-12pm to meet with you, no appointment necessary.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dufferin Mall  
900 Dufferin Street  
Suite 104 (The Abrigo Centre)

**\*No appointment necessary**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Opening night of <i>L'Orchestre d'Hommes-Orchestres</i> , Performance by Tom Waits and Meet the Councillor event - Toronto Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen Street West, 7:30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Public Meeting on 2-6 Lisgar development - The Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen Street West, Cream Tangerine Room, 4pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Symposium on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness. - City Hall, Council Chamber, 8:30am – Noon
6 <sup>th</sup>	Citizenship Drive event - Sporting Club Portuguese de Toronto, 1650 Dupont Street, 11am – 4 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	DigIn monthly meeting - Wallace Emerson Community Centre, Ambrico room, 7pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Safety Walk Training - Bloor-Gladstone Library, 7pm

## **Ward 18 in the News**



***Returning parking spaces to Dundas West Stretch between Sterling and Dovercourt should be restored by end of week***

Should everything go according to plan, parking along Dundas Street West between Sterling and Dovercourt roads should be restored by the end of the week, said a spokesperson for Davenport Councillor Ana Bailao, Friday, Feb. 11.

Staff at Bailao's office announced Friday that Toronto's Transportation Services confirmed that a work order had been issued to restore 70 parking spaces on Dundas Street West between Sterling and Dovercourt roads.

"Good weather is expected so everything should get done by the end of the week," said Deyan Kostovski, special assistant to Bailao. "It's a matter of removing the pay and display machines from side streets. They now have to be moved to Dundas Street West and be re-programmed."

Removing the retail parking was a pilot project spearheaded by former Councillor Adam Giambrone. The former TTC chair removed the parking spaces in an effort to make room for the 505 Dundas West streetcar. The move, however, infuriated area merchants going so far as to cause a significant drop in business. Since the pay and display machines were placed on adjacent residential streets in 2009, businesses reported a 30 to 50 per cent decrease in sales, according to Bailao.

"How can we say that we support community and small business and yet do nothing when they ask for help," said the councillor in a statement issued Friday morning.

The work order, which will return Dundas Street West to its previous parking situation before the pilot project was introduced, went into effect Thursday, Feb. 10. The process then began to remove all 'No Standing Anytime' signs along Dundas Street West between Lansdowne Avenue and Dovercourt Road.

[Full Article...](#)



### ***Ford's plan to kill plastic fee far from in the bag***

Mayor Rob Ford's surprise plan to kill the five-cent plastic bag tax has scant support among the rookie politicians who often hold the balance of power on council.

Of six new councillors reached by the Star on Friday, none

would vote to scrap the bylaw that makes the nickel fee mandatory. And they all said that, contrary to Ford's conversations with holiday shoppers who "can't stand" the fee, Torontonians have generally accepted it for the better.

There is strong support, however, for finding ways to ensure retailers put more of the profits toward environmental and charitable initiatives.

"I think this program has been successful reducing the usage of plastic bags in the city of Toronto," said Ana Bailão (Ward 18, Davenport), adding she has noticed a drop in bags littering Dufferin Grove Park.

"I will not be looking forward to scrapping the five-cent fee, even though I would be interested in looking into ways to have businesses donate more of this money to environmental initiatives."

[Full Article...](#)



## **New ward 18 councillor stresses importance of access after \$20.5-million sale of her alma mater**

The city announced the sale of an underused school last week, and the local councillor is worried it will mean an end to neighbourhood soccer games.

"[I]t remains unclear how accessible the school's facilities will remain to the area and residents," newly elected [Councillor Ana Bailao](#), a Toronto Western alumna herself, said in a press release.

[Toronto Western Collegiate](#) and its grounds, near College and Lansdowne, were sold to the [French public school board](#) for \$20.5 million. In the 2009-2010 school year, its last, the school was estimated to have been about 90 per cent vacant.

According to the councillor's special assistant, [Deyan Kostovski](#), the school's gym, football field and track have been well used community amenities.

"For those who have developed a habit or routine of using the gymnasium or the field in the summer," Kostovski says, "we're welcoming [the French board] into the neighbourhood and hoping they'll be open to the community."

School trustee [Sheila Cary-Meagher](#) was less sanguine about the city's decision to divest.

"I find myself just so pissed off that we are again doing something that is patently stupid. We are selling something that we are going to regret," she

[told the CBC](#). "And I hate that kind of situation."



## Parking to be Restored on Dundas West

On Feb. 7, Toronto City Council voted in favour of bringing back the 70 parking spaces on Dundas Street between Dovercourt and Sterling Rds. which were taken away during former Adam Giambrone's reign as councillor of Ward 18.

"Our past councillor was not a friend and people were very, very upset about what was happening," said Lori Nytko, owner of the Full of Beans Coffee House and Roastery (1348 Dundas St. W).

The decision to remove 42 per cent of parking paralyzed business owners who lost potential customers because they had to nowhere to park.

Nytko said that the decision to remove almost half the available spots not only paralyzed business in the area, but also made it unsafe for residents around the streets with the added second lanes.

Now, parking has returned and the five-year battle waged by the Dundas West BIA is over and Bailão continues to deliver on the campaign promises that seemed to elude ex-councillor Giambrone.

"It's amazing. She has already broken the record for a councillor attending BIA board meeting," Fernandez said in a jokingly austere tone.

Bailão said she plans to hand out a press release to residents to make them aware of the decision.

### Upcoming Safety Walks

The following safety walk are planned to make our streets

**Wednesday March 30**  
- Queen Street

**Thursday April 7th**  
- Lappin Avenue

**Thursday May 5th**  
- Wallace and Campbell

**Thursday May 12th**  
- Bloor and Lansdowne

[Full Article...](#)

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Rush-hour parking is set to return to Dundas Street West after rookie Coun. Ana Bailao's successful push to have it reinstated.

Bailao called it a victory for residents and business owners in the area. "They have a councillor that's going to work with them and listen to them, and in this case we all wanted the same thing," she said.

Previous Ward 18 councillor Adam Giambrone's elimination of rush-hour parking spaces on Dundas was met with outrage by some local entrepreneurs.

"Someone had lost a screw or something, because that's insane for something like that to happen to a business-oriented street," said Robert Cavral, owner of Robert Automotive Supply and Hardware at 1375 Dundas St. W.

Cavral said his store, which has been in business for 37 years, suffered from the lack of parking and he's happy Bailao brought it back: "All the power to her. I think she's doing the right thing and I stand behind her 100 per cent."

Some residents were also concerned with the potential dangers that came with more traffic.

"It became a highway, and there are too many residences on Dundas for it to be a highway," said Lori Nytko, owner of Full of Beans coffee house at 1348 Dundas St. W. Nytko said the parking will slow down drivers and keep residents safe.

[Full Article...](#)

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**Parking Adam Giambrone's legacy:**

\*All safety walks begin at 7pm.

For more information on participating in these and other safety audits, please contact: [dkostov@toronto.ca](mailto:dkostov@toronto.ca)

## **Levy**

### **New councillor brings back old spaces on Dundas St. W.**

Quickly and without a whimper, it looks like the so-called legacy of ex-Ward 18 councillor Adam Giambrone is set to be dismantled.

On Monday's council agenda is a report proposing the 70 parking spots he opted to remove from a five-block 1.5-km stretch of Dundas St. W. be reinstated.

In addition, the report recommends allowing parking in the westbound lanes (from Dovercourt Rd. to Sterling Rd.) during the morning rush hour and on the eastbound side during the afternoon peak period.

For \$15,000 — to put up new signs and install parking machines — some \$315,000 in parking revenue is expected to be raised annually from the move, city staff report.

Giambrone's successor, newbie councillor Ana Bailao, wasted no time undoing the parking restrictions with a motion to the first council meeting last Dec. 16. She said it didn't hurt that Mayor Rob Ford came out to the neighbourhood just before Christmas to witness the situation first hand.

The proposal passed unanimously at the Jan. 19 Toronto and East York Community Council meeting and if it is approved by council this week, Bailao hopes to have the parking reinstated by Feb. 25. (To his credit, transportation general manager Gary Welsh told me he'll "put a push on" installing the signs, despite the weather.)

"It was one of the priority issues locally because of the impact it had on businesses and residents," Bailao said, noting she'd made the issue part of her campaign platform.

"It was a sign of the way that community was dealt with."

Bailão was perhaps too kind.

The controversial Dundas St. W. parking issue — the former TTC chairman's surreal year-long experiment in traffic management that went horribly wrong for the 100-odd businesses impacted — was perhaps the epitome of a regime completely detached from its constituents and a councillor who ruled his ward like a power-mad dictator.

**Ana in Action**

**Ana speaks on behalf of War Resisters at the Davenport for Peace event.**



**Pleased to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation's 2011 Fundraiser**



**Grey Tigers Senior Citizens Club welcome Ward 18's new Councillor at Wallace Community Centre**



This newsletter was sent to you as a part of our office's commitment to ensuring that our constituents are aware of our actions on their behalf.

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