Greetings to Mayor and Council.

My name is Bill Simone, and I am speaking today as Vice-President of the Beasley Neighbourhood Association, the downtown residents' association working to improve the quality of life for people who work, live and play in the Beasley Neighbourhood.

The BNA is an energetic and engaged group of citizens that meets twice monthly at the Beasley Community Centre, and we regularly discuss many of the important issues that face our members on a daily basis.

One key issue that impacts Beasley Neighbours maybe more than anything else are the state of the roads in our Neighbourhood. I’m not talking about pot-holes, but rather the design of our streets so that they better contribute to quality of life downtown.

Beasley’s streets, as they stand, are busy, noisy thoroughfares designed to get Hamiltonian,s from one side of the city to the other side in as short a time as possible. Cannon street, for example, is a virtual highway that cuts our Neighbourhood in half, while moving more than 16,000 Hamiltonian,s through Beasley every day at 60-plus kilometers per hour.

Meanwhile one block south is Wilson St., which is now two-ways, and offers a considerably friendlier, quieter, and safer pedestrian and resident experience to Cannon. We know this because the BNA conducts residents surveys all year long, and our results consistently show that residents perceive Cannon and other one-way streets like Mary and Catherine to be dangerous, especially for children and those who need to use mobility devices to get around.

I personally love to shop, and I always have a bundles buggy with me or a nap sack attached to my back and almost daily witness accidents going to happen, cars speed along Cannon, to make the light at Catharine street, and literally slide around the corner, while at the same time hitting their gas peddle, while some old guy, which is “me” is scrambling to get out of their way crossing across from the Victory Gardens, in front of The Lester B Pearson Home…. Again I see children, becoming confused, crossing Cannon with all those fast moving lanes of traffic barreling at them, and it must be very scary to young children, Hell I’m scared because at 60 clicks, if they hit me, I am going to shed a lot of weight, so please think of me as a retired Senior, along with your children coming and going from home, school or play....
At the December 11th GIC meeting, Council passed a motion directing staff to:

report to the General Issues Committee with a five-year plan regarding two-way street conversions, and that the report identify those projects that can be implemented with existing departmental budgets, and those that are currently unfunded.

The BNA strongly supports this decision, especially considering the slow progress on converting some of the streets identified in the Downtown Transportation Master Plan.

Hamiltonians are reliant on roads to live and work, and this all the more important in a downtown neighbourhood like Beasley. Unlike in less densely populated parts of the city, its not just mostly drivers who use roads in Beasley, but many pedestrians, cyclists and residents share this important urban resource.

The quality of life experienced by Beasley residents is dependent on the design quality of our roads, therefore the BNA would like to see progress in 2013 in implementing two-way conversions so that we may see more complete, two-way streets in Beasley. We are confident that redesigned streets will increase safety downtown, encourage healthy lifestyles that involve more walking and cycling, support local businesses, and contribute to improved quality of life for all Beasley residents.

Thank you for your time today, and I hope you will consider our delegation in the budget deliberations.
Greetings Mayor and Council, my name is Bill Simone, a retired resident living in Hamilton, bringing a delegation to end the use of Styrofoam in food handling, thus helping our environment, and to help save money in the budget deliberations. Enclosed please find documentation, and much more on the Webb site of Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, who wishes to follow the lead of other major US cities who have banned Styrofoam in food handling.

Thank You for your time
New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg calls for Styrofoam container ban

By Michael Muskal

12:43 PM PST, February 14, 2013

The billionaire mayor who has fought smoking, large-sized sugary drinks and excessive fat and salt announced on Thursday that he will now target Styrofoam, seeking to ban the product used for take-out -- and leftover -- fare.

In his 12th and last State of the City address, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he will seek to have the City Council ban polystyrene foam, the ubiquitous, lightweight packaging colloquially known by the brand name Styrofoam. The product has long been criticized by environmentalists because it seems to last forever, easily outliving most anything organic.

“One product that is virtually impossible to recycle and never biodegrades is Styrofoam,” Bloomberg said in his annual speech. It is "something that we know is environmentally destructive, that is costing taxpayers money, and that is easily replaceable.

"I think it is something we can do without," Bloomberg said. "And don’t worry: The doggie bag and the coffee cup will survive just fine."

The city estimates about 20,000 tons of the foam product are dumped into New York’s waste stream every year, adding an estimated $20 a ton to the cost of recycling because it must be handled separately. Bloomberg’s proposal now goes to the City Council where a similar ban has been stalled in recent years even though some cities on the environmentally conscious West Coast have moved toward full or partial bans.

The ban is part of an environmental program that Bloomberg, a lame duck, put forward. He called for more parking spaces and more vehicle chargers -- both for electric cars. He also called for doubling the city’s recycling rate to 30% by 2017.

In his speech, given at the Barclays Center arena in Brooklyn, Bloomberg stressed that the city has never been stronger, repeating the formula that most chief executives use in giving their annual appraisal of their efforts. Among the milestones his aides have stressed in recent days is the record-
low homicide rate of 419 (less than Chicago and about the same number as the much smaller Detroit); the record number of tourists; and the record number of private sector jobs.

Bloomberg, who is termed out this year, is known nationally for his efforts to curb gun violence, having funded and created a coalition of mayors, which has pushed for tougher gun control laws.

In terms of policy, Bloomberg will always be associated for his efforts in the public health field, earning him praise from activists and derision as a “nanny” mayor from opponents.

He pushed to limit the size of sugary drinks, sold principally by fast-food outlets, to 16 ounces. The limit is scheduled to go into effect next month, but is still being challenged by the beverage industry.

During his first term, Bloomberg successfully got a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants, which has proven very popular even in a city where smoke-filled rooms were seen as a sine qua non. He also fought for a ban on trans fats, which makes French fries more than shoe-stringed shaped ballast. He also got a requirement for fast-food restaurants to post calorie information in large type, making public what was once tastefully hidden.

Much of Bloomberg’s speech dealt with economic development issues, but the mayor also noted Superstorm Sandy, which tore through the city and much of the metropolitan area in a deadly swath of destruction.

“We’ll take the same approach to the single most important piece of unfinished business that lies ahead of us in 2013: rebuilding the communities hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy -- and creating a more resilient and sustainable city," Bloomberg said.

“Forty-three New Yorkers lost their lives in that storm, and it’s up to us to do all we can to prevent that from happening again," he insisted.

“This year, we’ll develop a long-term plan so that when extreme weather hits -- we’ll be able to get the lights back on quickly and ensure that the heat keeps working, the gas stations stay open, the hospitals maintain power and the transportation system keeps operating.”

ALSO:

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants Styrofoam ban

Styrofoam may soon be going the way of the Big Gulp in New York City.

In his final State of the City address Thursday, Mayor Michael Bloomberg called for a citywide ban on plastic foam containers.

The containers, used for everything from coffee to Chinese takeout, clog up landfills because they don’t biodegrade and may be a human health threat, NBC News reported.

The ban would require City Council approval.

And while some councilors indicated their support, the restaurant industry issued a more measured response.

Styrofoam also increases recycling costs by as much as $20 per ton, Bloomberg told Agence France-Presse.

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More from GlobalPost: Study: New York’s trans fat ban working

"We have to consider what the costs will be for both government and the business owners who make the city run," New York State Restaurant Association spokesman Andrew Moezel told The New York Times.

He also noted that paper containers can often be more expensive than plastic foam.

Restaurants in New York City were hit with a ban on large sodas late last year, and have been under a trans fat ban for nearly six years.

Should we care about Oscar Pistorius?

☐ Yes, Pistorius is the new OJ Simpson.

☐ No, people are killed every day.

☐ I don’t know, I’ve never heard of Pistorius before.
Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants Styrofoam ban | GlobalPost

Styrofoam containers have already been nixed in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, according to Bloomberg.


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