

# **Residents' Comments to Councillor's Office on the Polling Process, Winter 2016**

## **John Zilcosky:**

As someone who walked our block door-to-door in the weeks leading up to the voting deadline, I'd like to point out two flaws in the City's method:

1. At house after house, I met residents—mostly renters—who did not receive a ballot. Because of the high number of renters on our block, this skewed the data significantly and helps to explain why we received more positive votes on the petition we circulated in October than in the City's official ballot. Many residents who would have favored the initiative were disenfranchised.
2. Residents showed me literally dozens of ballots addressed to people who had long moved away. Although 50% of our \*present residents\* certainly participated in the City's poll, the inclusion of so many former residents falsely inflated the participant number. Given this, how can the City consider the 50% participation rate a legitimate benchmark?

## **Leslie Thompson:**

Although I have owned a house on Major St. for almost 11 years and I was one of the door-knockers for the original petition and I am affected by the speeders and wrong-way drivers, I was not sent "the form". Thus, I took time from my work and other responsibilities to go to City Hall, find the right office, wait while they figured out how to get approval of my oath, and then submit it. Many of my neighbours do not have the same time flexibility. There is a serious process problem. The results of the poll reflect a poor process, not the wishes of your constituents.

## **Jessica Dee Humphreys:**

As a thirteen-year-long resident, and the person who started this process with the city many years ago, I still did not receive a ballot for this poll. Sadly, the ballots were not sent to the voters' list, which would have ensured that everyone residing here received a vote. Instead our home received seven ballots for people who had not lived here since the 1990s. This is a high renter area, but renters are not just transient students. They are often longstanding members of our community, with children who risk getting hit by speeding cars just as easily as homeowners.