



Mayor backs Beaulieu, defends record

Posted by [Jane Armstrong](#) on Friday, September 17, 2010

With his tenure as mayor winding down and his legacy taking a battering from frontrunning mayoral candidates, Mayor David Miller was in a reflective — and defiant — mood Friday morning.

Miller was at the Dufferin subway station, doing a little campaigning for his choice in Ward 18 Davenport, [Kevin Beaulieu](#).

The flesh-pressing got off to a bumpy start when a pair of angry, profane hecklers — one was rival Ward 18 candidate Ken Wood — crashed the canvass, chasing the mayor and Beaulieu at every turn.

When Miller jumped aboard a northbound Dufferin bus, Wood flew into a rage, saying the mayor broke city rules forbidding campaigning on TTC property.

“How the hell can you do that?” Wood shouted. “Shame on you. I am launching a formal complaint, sir.”

Subdued, Miller left the bus and descended into the subway station. He shook off the hecklers’ impact, saying they come with the territory.

He was more interested in talking about his legacy and said he’s disappointed the top mayoral candidates are shifting to the right.

“They’re turning out to be Rob Ford lites,” he said.

“Except for Joe Pantalone, all the candidates are talking about tearing down the city and they’re talking about accounting issues.”

He said the accusations of wasteful spending at city are unfounded.

“Ford, [George] Smitherman, [Rocco] Rossi — when they say these things are completely ill-informed.”

Miller said he couldn't think of a single example of wasteful spending at city hall in the past seven years — not even the St. Clair Ave. streetcar upgrade, which went hundreds of millions over budget.

“Yes, it's true that there were some delays because of coordination between Toronto Hydro, the [city] roads department and the TTC,” he said. “Fair enough to criticize that. But the project as a whole was incredibly good value.

“The end result is an excellent use of public money.”

Miller laughed at Rossi's [suggestion](#) to extend the Allen Expressway underground to the Gardiner Expressway.

“An eight-kilometre tunnel with no exits? Cars break down,” he said. “It won't cost \$4 billion. It will cost \$10 [billion]. What do you do when it connects to the Gardiner? Knock down CityPlace?”

As Miller spoke, well-wishers — among them high school students, mothers pushing strollers and rushing commuters — approached the towering mayor. Most smiled and extended their hands, thanking him for his service.

“I did my best,” he replied.