
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM8.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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Exemption to By-Laws Prohibiting Street Hockey and Other Ball Sports to Promote Active and Healthy Youth and Community Engagement - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the type of streets on which street hockey or other ball sports are suitable, eg. streets with dead ends, cul-de-sacs and/or low traffic volumes.
2. City Council request the City Manager to include in his report, a feasibility study of a procedure that allows any Toronto resident residing on a street with a speed limit at or lower than 40 km/hr to apply for an exemption from the current city by-laws that prohibit playing street hockey and other ball sports.
3. City Council request the City Manager to also include in his report, a study on the potential liability, in the event of an injury or property damage, to the City with an "exemption" procedure as identified in Recommendation 2 above.

Summary

Participating in street hockey is a cherished sport for many Torontonians. The activity provides an opportunity for children and youth to be physically active and make friends while developing a sense of community. Despite complaints-based enforcement, the complete prohibition of ball hockey on appropriate City streets conveys the wrong message to young people in Toronto and does reflect the reality of how residents use our City's streets.

While there are certain locations where street hockey is not feasible or safe, there are many appropriate spaces for young people to play road hockey on streets that have dead ends or cul-de-sacs and exhibit low traffic volumes. This Motion does not completely eliminate the current by-law prohibiting street hockey, but in an effort to find a more reasonable approach, allows for exemptions in appropriate circumstances as determined by City staff as per Recommendation 1.

(Submitted to City Council on May 17, 2011 as MM8.2)