

Ward 22, St. Paul's

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Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen St W
Toronto M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

NEW BUSINESS: Taking an Evidence Based Approach to Traffic Safety on Ward 22's Local Neighbourhood Streets

Protecting our children, along with all other pedestrians, cyclists and drivers is a top priority for Toronto residents.

While there are some tragic accidents that no traffic calming measure will prevent, that doesn't negate the City of Toronto's responsibility to everything possible to improve the safety of our neighbourhoods.

Recently, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto recommended reducing the speed limit to 30 km/h on most residential streets. His report noted that pedestrians have an over 20% chance of dying when hit by a car travelling at 40 km/h but fatality rates decrease to less than 5% when hit by a car that travels at 30 km/h. After 30 km/h zones were introduced in London, England, these zones experienced a 42% reduction in fatalities.

Given that the research indicates that reducing the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 can be the difference between life and death, I am requesting City staff to provide recommendations to Toronto and East York Community Council to lower the speed limit, to 30 km/h on local streets and where possible, collector roads within areas designated by the City's Official Plan as "Neighbourhood" in Ward 22.

This measure is also meant to decrease traffic incursion into our neighbourhoods by creating a disincentive for drivers to leave arterial roads in favour of shortcuts through residential neighbourhoods. Moreover, it is meant to provide more consistency and predictability to everyone who shares Ward 22's local neighbourhood streets.

Thank you for your consideration of the following motions.

Recommendation:

1. Community Council request City Transportation Staff to report back to the first Toronto & East York Community Council meeting of the next term of Council on lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h on all local streets and, where possible, collector roads, within areas designated by the City's Official Plan as "Neighbourhood" in Ward 22.

Sincerely,

Josh Matlow
City Councillor
Ward 22 - St.Paul's