

June 21, 2019

City of Toronto  
General Government and Licensing Committee

RE: GL6.31 Review of the City of Toronto Municipal Code  
Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to provide written comment to the General Government and Licensing Committee as it considers a review of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire.

Parachute is a national Canadian charity founded in 2012. Our mission is to create a safer Canada by preventing serious and fatal injuries through evidence-based solutions that advocate and educate. We promote researched, evidence-based and expert-advised resources and tools that can help to prevent serious harm or death from preventable injuries.

One of Parachute's priority areas is road safety, as motor vehicle collisions are a leading cause of death to Canadians. Our work in this area is guided by the Vision Zero framework, of applying a comprehensive, safe systems approach to road safety. In May 2017, Parachute launched the Canadian Vision Zero Network that provides access to the most current evidence based practices that reduce motor vehicle collisions. Over the past six years, Parachute has implemented an annual National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) that is designed to drive public awareness of teen driver safety issues, and encourages community and youth involvement as part of the solution. Our team provides expertise, networking links and education across the country to stakeholders who are working in their communities to improve road safety.

Parachute has partnered with Uber Canada to further enhance safety on the Uber platform as it relates to the safety of drivers, passengers and other road users by reviewing and providing advice.

Parachute supports the availability of properly regulated vehicle for hire services. We agree with the Report from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards in mandating training for all vehicle for hire drivers, increasing driving history requirements and mandating collision reporting.

With respect to managing the accreditation and audit of training programs, while holding industry accountable for its delivery, we support using a systems approach to safety management. Working together with industry, the City of Toronto should ensure training reflects best practices using adult learning principles as well as ensuring the content of the training is evidence-based. An approach that allows industry to meet their unique operating requirements, while being accountable for mitigating safety risk, and measuring how well their individual systems work over time is important. This needs to be combined with multiple mitigation tools, while encouraging new tools and innovations that can improve safety outcomes as businesses evolve their operations.

The City of Toronto is encouraged to consider this approach for managing safety risks for the vehicle-for-hire industry, from driver training to improving how the industry shares the road with other road users (e.g. with pedestrians, people on bikes and other active modes of transport).

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comment to the Committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 647-776-5103 or [pfuselli@parachutecanada.org](mailto:pfuselli@parachutecanada.org).

Sincerely,

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Vice-President, Knowledge Transfer & Stakeholder Relations