

November 26, 2021

Submission to Toronto City Council – General Government and Licensing Committee

Subject: GL27.19: Update on Outstanding Vehicle-for-Hire Directives

I am pleased to provide written comment to the General Government and Licensing Committee as it relates to the update on outstanding vehicle-for-hire directives, specifically the implementation of the driver training accreditation program.

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 our Vision Zero Network that synthesizes research to create tools, reports and other knowledge translation products provide access to the most current evidence-based practices for a diverse range of professionals, e.g., enforcement, municipalities, injury prevention experts, health care practitioners, and educators, that reduce motor vehicle collisions. Parachute leads National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW), a program that engages youth in driver safety issues and the Elementary Road Safety Program that fosters and supports community leadership to address school zone safety. Our team provides expertise, networking links and education across the country to stakeholders who are working in their communities to improve road safety.

In 2019, Parachute fully supported Council's decision to move forward with a Driver Training Accreditation Program and the efforts to ensure drivers have essential driver and road safety information. Since then, Parachute has worked to develop a robust, online training program and submitted an application to the City of Toronto to become an accredited training provider in early 2020. The accreditation program was since paused until November 2021, at which time Parachute submitted an application once again.

Parachute supports the timely rollout of the Driver Training Accreditation Program. On November 10, 2021, Council paused the issuance of new vehicle-for-hire driver licenses until the accredited training program is established and drivers have completed an approved course. This decision has created a gap, whereby training is required but is not

available to drivers, and the anticipated implementation timelines have not been provided. The unintended consequences of a reduction in driver licensing are concerning, including reduced service or longer wait times for seniors and people with physical disabilities who may rely on vehicle-for-hire transportation during the winter months and reduced availability of vehicle-for-hire transportation as an alternative to impaired driving.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comment to this important matter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Fuselli".

Pamela Fuselli, MSc
President & CEO